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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Says Saddam Initiative Has 'Importance' *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Abd-al-Majid Wants 'Aziz Off Arab League Panel *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Chedli Klibi Receives French Envoy in Tunis *[Tunis Radio]* 1
GCC Information Ministers in Jeddah for Meeting *[SPA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Letters to Security Council *[INA]* 2
Official Explains Negative Vote at Arab Summit *[APS]* 2
Abu-Sharif Says PLO Working for 'Arab Solution' *[London TV]* 2
Kamal Says 'All Arabs' To Back Iraq if Attacked *[INA]* 3
PFLP's Habash Urges Confrontation With U.S. *[INA]* 3
PPSF Denounces Foreign Presence in Gulf *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
PNSF Urges Arabs To 'Resist' U.S. Actions *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Spokesman Disowns Statement by Envoy to Cairo *[Tunis Radio]* 4
Saudi Arabia To Expel Palestinians to Jordan *[AFP]* 4
Syria-Palestinian Rift Reported To Aid 'Arafat *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 4

OPEC Affairs

Iranian President Warns Against 'Treachery' *[IRNA]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

French Envoy on Bendjedid Talks, Iraq Embargo *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Iraqi Envoy Dismisses Threat to Saudi Arabia *[Algiers TV]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak Meets With Kuwaiti Minister *[MENA]* 8
Minister Details Amir Message *[MENA]* 8
'Abd-al-Majid Says Saddam Initiative Not Clear *[MENA]* 8
Volunteers Throng to Saudi, UAE Embassies *[AFP]* 8
Suez Canal Source Reaffirms Free Passage Mandate *[MENA]* 9
165 Iraqis Return Home via Jordan *[MENA]* 9
Column Urges 'Annihilation' of Saddam *[AL-HUMHURIYAH '2 Aug]* 9
Commentary Views Saddam Husayn Call for Jihad *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Israeli Consul in Alexandria Arrested for Spying *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 13 Aug]* 11

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for UN Security Council Meeting *[Tripoli TV]* 11
Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Iraq-Kuwait Situation *[Tripoli TV]* 11

Morocco

Contingent of Troops Leaves for Saudi Arabia *[AFP]* 14

Sudan

'Arafat Arrives for Visit, Reports on Yemeni Talks 14
Meets With Al-Bashir *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Ends Visit, Departs *[Omdurman Radio]* 14

Tunisia

'Thousands' March in Support of Iraq *[Tunis Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Embassy in Manama Confirms Assistance *[WAKH]* 16

Kuwait

National Media To Relocate to Cairo 16
AL-ANBA' Starts Publication *[MENA]* 16
Shortwave Program Receives Frequency *[MENA]* 16
Aide Cited on Attack at National Guard Center *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Aug]* 16

Oman

Sultanate Will Not Increase Oil Production *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Aug]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Soldiers Arrive in Saudi Arabia 14 Aug *[VOL]* 17
King Fahd Receives Message From Mitterrand *[SPA]* 17
Foreign Minister Receives Islamic Envoys *[Riyadh Radio]* 17
Arrival of U.S. and Arab Support Noted *[Riyadh TV]* 18
Pakistan Confirms Readiness To Send Troops *[Riyadh TV]* 18
'Principled' Arab Stance on Aggression Welcomed *['UKAZ 12 Aug]* 18
Paper Considers Saddam's 'Lost Credibility' *[AL-YAWM 12 Aug]* 19

United Arab Emirates

All Iraqi Ships Reportedly Banned From Ports *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Kuwaiti Interior Minister Arrives for Talks *[Dubayy Radio]* 19
Navigation Service Issues Warning on Mines *[AFP]* 20

Yemen

Presidential Council Discusses Gulf Developments *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih Receives Saddam Letter, Sends Reply *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih, Ben Ali Reject Foreign Military Presence *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih Sends 'Urgent' Message to Gorbachev *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
'Arafat Discusses 'Initiative,' Departs 14 Aug *[Sanaa Radio]* 21

IRAQ

'Text' of Saddam Peace Proposal Sent to Iran *[Baghdad Radi]* 22
Proposal Distributed at UN Geneva Headquarters *[INA]* 22
Tehran Radio Reports Iraqi Withdrawal Decision 23
Foreigners' Status Linked to Nations' Stances *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 23

British Officers Reportedly Held in Baghdad Hotel *[AFP]* 23
Saddam Husayn Envoy Returns From Yemen 13 Aug *[INA]* 23
Opposition Leader Comments on Saddam Husayn *[London TV]* 23
Baghdad Radio Overpowers Kuwaiti Transmission *[Dubayy Radio]* 24
Law Issued on Execution of Thieves in Kuwait *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Kuwaitis Hold 'Massive Rally' To Support Iraq *[INA]* 24
Health Departments Set Up in Kuwaiti Cities *[INA]* 25
Bank Says Kuwaiti Dinar Equal to Iraqi Dinar *[INA]* 25
Fahd Involved in 'Big U.S.-Zionist Conspiracy' *[INA]* 25
Paper Assails Saudi Acceptance of Foreign Help *[INA]* 25
Commentary Says U.S. Only Defends Own Interests *[Baghdad International]* 26
Paper Reviews U.S. Decisions on Gulf Forces *[INA]* 27

ISRAEL

Minister Levi Interviewed; Comments on Jordan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Source Says Jordan Becoming Iraqi 'Satellite' *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Levi Assesses Husayn's Al-'Aqabah Policy*[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Aug]* *[Jerusalem TV]* *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Aug]* 29
Israel Will Not Act 'To Overthrow' King Husayn *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
U.S. Weapons, Jordan's Support for Iraq Viewed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Arad Meets Baker, Reaches Agreement on Crisis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
U.S. To Deport Palestinian Suspected of Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Iraqi Allegation on Air Attacks 'Sleazy Lie' *[Jerusalem International]* 31
Saddam's Plan Seen as Opening for Negotiations *[HA'ARETZ 13 Aug]* 31
Iraqi Chemical Arms Industry, German Aid Viewed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Aug]* 32
Levi 'Very Pleased' With Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
East Jerusalem Newspapers Support Saddam *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
'Popular' Organizations Express Support for Iraq *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
MAPAM Says PLO Support for Iraq 'Grave' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Aug]* 33
West Bank Arabs Riot in Support of Saddam *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
General Sees 'No Escalation' in Territories *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Arabs May Be Unprotected in Chemical Attack *[HA'ARETZ 12 Aug]* 33
Coal-Based Electricity Station Starts Operation *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Aug]* 34

JORDAN

King Phones Arab Leaders, Meets With Saddam *[Amman Radio]* 35
King Husayn Receives Iraqi Envoy 14 Aug *[Amman Radio]* 35
Husayn To Discuss Crisis Solution With Bush *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Aug]* 35
Reportage on Activity at Al-'Aqabah Port 35
'Moderate Increase' 13 Aug *[HA'ARETZ 13 Aug]* 35
Port Director on 13-14 Aug Traffic *[Amman TV]* 35
Ships Await 'Orders' *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Aug]* 36
Trucks Deliver Goods to Iraq *[HADASHOT 15 Aug]* 37
Journalists Barred From Port *[AFP]* 37
Turks Leave Kuwait Via Amman, Recount Experience *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 37
Officials Deny Citizens Harassed at Saudi Border *[AL-RA'Y 15 Aug]* 38
Ministry Contacts European Capitals on Crisis *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Aug]* 38
Movement Urges Muslims To Disavow Saudi Rulers *[INA]* 39
Government Drafts Memo on Sanctions Results *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Aug]* 39
Deputies, Parties Issue Statements on Crisis *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 39

LEBANON

Four Belgian Hostages To Be Released 'This Week' *[Cairo Radio]* 41
'Prominent' Sources Cite 15 Aug Release *[VOM]* 41
Hizballah Warns Against Executing Bombing Suspects *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
JANA Reports Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Sidon 41
PSP Assails U.S.-Led 'Imperialist Invasion' *[VOM]* 41
Paper Reveals Cabinet Measures Against 'Awn *[RFL]* 41
Statement Condemns Amal Propaganda Campaign *[IRNA]* 42

Plan To Remove 'Awn May Include Military Action *[RFL]* 42
Al-Huss Assassination Attempt Rumors Investigated *[VOL]* 42

SYRIA

Al-Asad Meets With Kelly, Receives Bush Message *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Vice President Khaddam To Visit Iran for Talks *[IRNA]* 43
Cabinet Meets To Review Political Situation *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Press Says Iraq Should Prevent Gulf 'Explosion' *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Papers Praise Cairo Summit, Al-Asad Efforts *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Commentary Compares Iraqi, Israeli Withdrawals *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Meets UN Development Official *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Meets Businessmen, Encourages Private Sector *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Council of Ministers Meet on Economic Situation *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Constitution Council Meets on Political Party Law *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Resolutions of Watan Party Congress Explained *[BAKHTAR]* 46
Military Transport Plane Crashes, 82 Killed *[AFP]* 46
Stinger Missiles Purchased From Extremists *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Pakistan Ties, Government Dissolution Viewed *[BAKHTAR]* 47

India

Article Terms Gujral's Nepal Visit 'Successful' *[Delhi International]* 47
Iraq Offers To Cooperate in Evacuation of Indians *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Gujral To Visit Washington, Baghdad on Mission *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Soviet Coverage of Gujral's Visit to Moscow *[cross-reference]* 49
Striking Air India Pilots Assure Cooperation *[Delhi Radio]* 49
90 Feared Killed in Bus Accident in Bihar 7 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Sikh Party Calls 72-Hour Strike in Punjab 49
Protests Security 'Excesses' *[AFP]* 49
Security Steps Taken *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Traffic Normal Despite Strike *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Strike Evokes Mixed Response *[Delhi Radio]* 50
900 Arrested 12 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 50
UDF Calls Strike in Kerala, Several Injured 50
Affects Traffic, Business *[Delhi Radio]* 50
To Protest Prices *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Curfew Imposed in Kashmir Town; Bus Set On Fire *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Massacres, Rape by Soldiers In Kashmir Reported *[London International]* 50
Anticreservation Agitation in Bihar, Calcutta 51
Several Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Police Kill Two *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Bomb Blast Kills 'At Least Four' in Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Sri Lankan Navy Opens Fire on Indian Fishermen *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Tehran Ready for 'Any Cooperation' in Region *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Rafsanjani Condemns Iraq, Notes Army Readiness *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Blames Crisis on States Arming Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Moqtada'i Says Foreign Forces 'Aggravate Tension' *[IRNA]* 53
Official Says U.S. Presence in Region 'Harmful' *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Ahmad Khomeyni Terms Saddam 'Replica of Hitler' *[IRNA]* 54
Spokesman Comments on Iraqi Proposal *[IRNA]* 54
Iraqi Opposition Leader Ready To Send Fighters *[IRNA]* 54
'Unconditional Withdrawal' of Iraqi Forces Urged *[Tehran Radio]* 55

College Students Condemn U.S.'Aggression' *[IRNA]* 55
Student Union Plans Anti-U.S. Rally 19 Aug *[IRNA]* 56
Commentary Considers National Role in Gulf Crisis *[Tehran International]* 56
Paper Terms Arab League Summit 'Disgrace' *[IRNA]* 57
Commentary on Repercussions of Gulf Crisis *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Papers on Gulf Situation, Saddam's Next Move *[IRNA]* 58
Paper Notes Threat of Military Confrontation *[IRNA]* 58
Paper Says Iraqi Invasion Serves U.S. Interests *[IRNA]* 59
Paper Says Keenan May Be Next Hostage Freed *[AFP]* 59
Reportage on Sayyed-Kia Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* 59

Pakistan

Prime Minister Jatoi Addresses Nation 14 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Laws Changed To Conform With Islamic Tenets *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 63
Foreign Secretary on Gulf Situation, India Talks *[THE MUSLIM 10 Aug]* 64
Saudi King's Envoy Visits Yaqub Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Cabinet Reviews Pakistani Response to Saudis *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Editorial Terms India Talks 'Exercise in Futility' *[THE MUSLIM 13 Aug]* 65
Former Minister Ahsan Secures Stay of Arrest *[AFP]* 66
PPP Leaders Deny Seeking Deal With Army *[THE MUSLIM 14 Aug]* 66
Eight-Party Alliance Leaders Meet on Election *[KAWN 10 Aug]* 67
Paper Considers Kashmir Assembly Dissolution *[THE NATION 11 Aug]* 67
Daily Comments on U.S.-Soviet Afghanistan Talks *[DAWN]* 68

Sri Lanka

Sri Lankans in Kuwait Reported Safe *[Colombo Radio]* 68
Government Responds to Muslim, LTTE Violence 69
Plans All-Out Offensive on LTTE *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Wijeratne Says 'Time Running Out' *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69
Killing of 33 Militants Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 69
21 LTTE Killed; Arms, Ammo Seized *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69
Communique Details Operations *[Colombo Radio]* 70
LTTE Says Government Bombs Jaffna *[Hong Kong AFP]* 70
LTTE Reportedly Massacres 100 Muslims *[LANKAPUVATH]* 71
LTTE Denies Alleged Massacre *[AFP]* 71
Tamil Parties Propose Solution *[Delhi Radio]* 71
Over 220 Killed in East *[LANKAPUVATH]* 72
Home Guards To Protect Villages *[Delhi Radio]* 72
100 Tamils Killed 13 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Says Saddam Initiative Has 'Importance'

LD1408144390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said to INA that President Saddam Husayn's initiative acquires a special importance because it shows the contradiction included in the stand of the superpowers in their distinction between colonization issues and their adoption of different criteria, according to the interests they consider vital for them and say they are attached to.

The secretary general added, in a statement made yesterday to INA, that there is no doubt that the principles which apply today on Kuwait's invasion applied to Lebanon in 1978 and 1987. He pointed out that the principles, which are transgressed today and which were the subject of a resolution by the Security Council, had been transgressed many times before when Israel invaded the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan, and the south of Lebanon. All these territories are still under Israeli dominance after 23 years. Neither the United States nor the EEC countries have moved to liberate these territories, [words indistinct] on the contrary, they opposed any sanctions against Israel, despite the latter's negligence of international legitimacy, pretexting their disbelief in the benefits of these procedures.

Mr. Chedli Klibi stressed that the principles of the UN Charter have been put forward by the countries of the world to apply to all UN members, and to become the constitution governing international relations, without exception or distinction. The secretary general of the Arab League said that out of this standpoint, the United States stand would not be credible if distinction is made between one country and another, and one case and another in abiding by the principles of the charter.

Our wish is that the principles of the charter and the UN resolutions be respected, especialy those related to the illegitimacy of occupation, aggression or threats of aggression, and interference in a country's internal affairs. We wish to see the international community united in enforcing the respect of these principles by any country anywhere in the world.

Mr. Chedli Klibi pointed out that the Arab League will continue its endeavors, despite difficult conditions, in order to put an end to this crisis and resume Arab solidarity, to the benefit of the Arab nation.

'Abd-al-Majid Wants 'Aziz Off Arab League Panel

NC1308163490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated his demand that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, be removed from the chairmanship of the five-member Arab League committee. This committee includes Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, and the Sultanate of Oman, and is charged with discussing the arrangements for moving the Arab League secretariat general to Cairo, in accordance with the resolution passed by the Arab League council in March 1990. He said that this demand is based on the desire to maintain the committee's neutrality.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he heard with regret the news agencies' reports on statements made by Tariq 'Aziz on the future of joint Arab action, and his casting doubts on Egypt's ability to host the Arab League and to respect its charter and legitimacy. He explained that Egypt will not be managing the Arab League when it returns [to Cairo] because it has its own charter, laws, and bylaws. He went on to say that Egypt likes to explain that what occured during the recent Arab summit was in line with the charter and legitimacy. In addition, he added, the resolution passed at the meeting by the majority is in line with the internal bylaws of the league.

Regarding the statement by Tariq 'Aziz that his country will raise the issue of reviewing the return of the Arab League to its headquarters at the next meeting of the Arab League council, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the decision to move the Arab League back to Cairo was made at a full session of the League council and in line with the charter and Article 10, which stipulates that Cairo is the league's permanent headquarters.

Concluding his statement, the Egyptian official said: In view of these irresponsible statements by Tariq 'Aziz, it is difficult for him to continue as chairman of the committee. This is because of concern that the committee be neutral in its work. We had hoped that he would not have linked this issue to the current situation in the region, because the issue of the Arab League's return to its permanent headquarters had been decided.

Chedli Klibi Receives French Envoy in Tunis

LD1508000190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] We point out that Mr. Chedli Klibi received Mr. Claude Cheysson, President Francois Mitterrand's envoy, in Tunis Tuesday evening. [passage omitted]

GCC Information Ministers in Jeddah for Meeting

LD1508100190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0938 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 15 Aug (SPA)—Their excellencies the ministers of information in the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries arrived in Jeddah this morning to attend an emergency meeting due to be held later today at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah.

UAE Information and Culture Minister Ahmad Bin Hamid; Qatari Information and Culture Minister Hamad Bin Suhaym Al-Thani; Bahraini Information

Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid; Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas; and Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Bin-Mubarak-al-Hamad, have arrived. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Letters to Security Council

JN1308101490 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, Aug 13, INA—President Yasir 'Arafat of the State of Palestine addressed messages to heads of permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council.

The message, handed over by President 'Arafat to the ambassadors of France, Britain, the Soviet Union and China during a meeting with them here last night, tackled a comprehensive evaluation to President Saddam Husayn's initiative announced yesterday and its positive dimensions to solve all problems in the region.

Official Explains Negative Vote at Arab Summit

LD1408125590 Algiers APS in English 1122 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 14 August (APS)—In an interview to the evening daily "HORIZONS" [Yasir] 'Abd Rabbu, member of the PLO Executive Committee in charge of information, dealt mainly with the PLO's objective while voting against the resolution adopted by the Arab extraordinary summit held in Cairo on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, the consequences of this resolution voted by a relative majority on the developments in this region and its repercussions on the Intifada, as well as the real intentions sought by the USA and the West by sending their troops to the region.

'Abd Rabbu stated that the PLO took a position against the foreign intervention with a view of a fair solution that would suit all the sides. He added that the Palestinian organization requested from all the Arabs to exploit this chance to accomplish efforts and a particular mediation with the Iraqi leadership in order to reach a solution and to put an end to the clashes on a consensual basis.

'Abd Rabbu noted that neither the West nor the USA bother about the security and the integrity of these countries of the Gulf which claimed for the American intervention, nor the resumption of legitimacy in Kuwait...nor stability in Saudi Arabia. He said that their main concern is to master at the detriment of the Arab countries and people's interests.

Dealing with the repercussions of the development of the situation in the Gulf and on the Intifada, the Palestinian official underlined that the USA aims at exploiting this Arab-Arab conflict, in addition to its designs on the Arab wealth, and to increase the Western and Israeli intervention including the military aggressions to strike the Palestinian cause and the Intifada.

Abu-Sharif Says PLO Working for 'Arab Solution'

PM1408152590 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in English from Tunis by correspondent Sheena McDonald in London, during "The World This Week" program—live]

[Text] [McDonald] One of the staunchest allies of Iraq throughout this crisis and the Arab summit in Cairo yesterday has been the PLO. Joining us live now from Tunis is Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's senior adviser. Good evening.

[Abu-Sharif] Good evening.

[McDonald] Can I ask you first of all to explain why the PLO is supporting Iraq?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO had voted against the resolution because the PLO is against the external intervention in the Arab area because we know the repercussions and the flexions of such an intervention and how deep and dangerous they will be on the whole Arab world. We wanted a unanimous Arab decision to send a united Arab force to the region rather than allow external intervention because we know very well, and I think many people elsewhere know that this will lead to catastrophic results.

[McDonald] Well we now have a Pan-Arab force heading for Saudi Arabia as a defensive force, but it doesn't represent a united Arab force. Surely you are promoting disunity by not going along with that decision.

[Abu-Sharif] The main point is not which Arab force is going to the region. The main point is that the Arab masses do not accept external intervention. This is an Arab affair and we were working silently through our diplomatic initiative to find a solution that will save the Arab world and at the same time keep the stability. The presence of external forces in the region is definitely very far away from helping to keep the stability.

[McDonald] But do you accept that by not going along with the majority of states at the summit yesterday in Cairo you appear to be polarizing, if you like, the Arab states?

[Abu-Sharif] We know very well how this had been used in the West and how it will be used in the West, but in fact looking a little bit far ahead many people will realize that the PLO was wise enough to realize that unless a united Arab effort is achieved, and this is what we was...what we were working for, unless we do that—the whole region would be in turmoil in no time..

[McDonald] Can I clarify this? Presumably you do not support Saddan Husayn's violent invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

[Abu-Sharif] Definitely. The PLO cannot be with any forceful taking of any country to that end. But we were

preferring silent diplomacy than big blah-blah statements, because we realize how dangerous the situation is and how catastrophic it will be.

[McDonald interrupts] We've...

[Abu-Sharif continues] ...and that's why we kept moving from one capital to the other—meeting Saudis, Iraqis, Yemenis and the rest and we have supported the idea of the Arab summit and we have supported the idea of an Arab solution. But you see the point that should be understood in the West is that we were working, and we will continue working for keeping stability in the region. I'm sure fleets, air force, external forces will help neither moderate states nor stability in the region.

Kamal Says 'All Arabs' To Back Iraq if Attacked

JN1408204690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (INA)—Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm met this evening with his Palestinian counterpart Sa'id Kamal.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Cairo, Kamal said all Arabs will support Iraq in case of any aggression against it. He warned against the consequences of any aggression against Iraq, stating that they will affect not only Iraq but the entire Arab nation, especially the Palestinian people.

He said Iraq is among the Arab brothers that have adopted distinguished positions on the Palestine question and the valiant intifadah.

PFLP's Habash Urges Confrontation With U.S.

JN0908111690 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, Aug 9, INA—Mr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called yesterday for confronting U.S. aggression on Iraq and Kuwait.

In his message to the Palestinian people, on the occasion of entering the 33rd month of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Habash said the United States had started beating the drums of war and that it had to be taught a lesson if it attempted to aggress upon Iraq or any other Arab country.

Mr. Habash regarded U.S. attempts as an exploitation of the recent crisis in the Gulf to firm its control over the region and protect its oil interests there under the pretext of international legitimacy.

Mr. Habash added that if the US Administration was actualy keen on international legitimacy it would have been just as keen on implementing international legitimacy resolutions concerning Palestinians.

On the other hand Mr. Habash called on the army of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to adhere to their stance of rejecting U.S. blackmail and to refuse the resumption of dialogue with the United States unless the U.S. Administration acknowledged the Palestinians legitimate rights.

PPSF Denounces Foreign Presence in Gulf

JN1308074690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] The Palestine Popular Struggle Front's [PPSF] Political Bureau has issued a statement on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf crisis. The statement denounces the U.S. and NATO military concentrations in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the Mediterranean. It says these concentrations constitute a prelude to a military aggression against the entire Arab nation in an attempt to reimpose imperialist and colonial hegemony on it.

The statement says: This imperialist presence constitutes a flagrant challenge to the feelings and will of the Arab masses, which reject this presence and will face it with all resources.

The PPSF's statement warns against the role being played by the Zionist entity to take advantage of the explosive military climate to deal a blow to our people's intifadah inside [the occupied homeland] and certain Arab states in an attempt to annex further Palestinian and Arab territories, control the sources of oil, and implement its expansionist schemes.

PNSF Urges Arabs To 'Resist' U.S. Actions

JN1408215490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued the following statement:

During its meeting yesterday, 13 August 1990, the PNSF studied the new political developments in the Arab arena, particularly the explosive situation in the Gulf and the serious dangers to which the Arab region and the Gulf are subjected to and which are targeted against pan-Arab security and the Palestine question. The PNSF believes that:

First, the military and political American aggression and interference in the Arab region, which used the entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwait as a pretext, threatens the interests of the Arab nation and pan-Arab security. This aggression and interference aims at tightening the control over the fate of the nation, its people, the nation's oil, and resources; imposing subservience on the Arab nation within the framework of the American colonialist strategic schemes; and achieving its traditional anti-Arab policy in support of the Zionist entity in order to liquidate the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people, strike at the intifadah, and impose capitulation on the Arab nation.

Second, as the PNSF denounces the American aggression and invasion of the Arab territory and resources, it also

denounces the international solution to the crisis, and calls for the immediate evacuation of U.S. and international foreign forces. The PNSF affirms that solving the crisis must be achieved within its Arab framework. The regional peoples and governments are the ones that will pay the price of the aggression; consequently, they are responsible for resolving the regional problems without foreign interference.

Third, the Arab masses are called on to resist the American interference, confront the aggression on the Arab nation, and work within the framework of a militant Arab solidarity to protect the Arab territory and its independence, confront Zionism, imperialism, and their schemes, and liberate Palestine. The Arab masses are called on to overcome the state of Arab incompetence that paved the road for American aggression.

Fourth, the PNSF calls for the broadest national Palestinian mobilization to form a national front to protect the heroic intifadah, to prevent the liquidation of the Palestine question, and to achieve the Palestinian people's objectives of self-determination and liberation of their territory.

[Signed] The Palestine National Salvation Front.

Spokesman Disowns Statement by Envoy to Cairo

LD1308001290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] The PLO has announced that the statement attributed to Sa'id Kamal, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Cairo, regarding the PLO's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the resolutions of the recent emergency Arab summit in Cairo, did not represent the PLO's stand which was clearly stated at the conference.

In a statement disseminated by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, in Tunis tonight, an official PLO spokesman said that Sa'id Kamal was not authorized to speak on behalf of the organization on an issue such as this. He pointed out that authorized Palestinian statements were only those were disseminated by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA. It is worth noting that that state of Palestine, together with Iraq and Libya, opposed the resolution issued by the emergency Cairo summit.

Saudi Arabia To Expel Palestinians to Jordan

NC1308203890 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 13 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has refused to renew work permits of 1,500 Palestinian workers and will soon expel them and their families to Jordan, a leading Palestinian lawyer said Monday. Shahabi al-Za'im told Agence France-Presse that the Saudi decision will affect a total of 5,000 Palestinians residing in the oil-rich kingdom.

"Palestinians in Saudi Arabia are seen as enemies because of the support the Palestine Liberation Organisation gives Iraq," the lawyer from the occupied Gaza Strip said. He said 300,000 Palestinians lived in Kuwait and 250,000 in Saudi Arabia. The Israeli authorities had issued a six-month visa renewal to some 15,000 Palestinians from Kuwait currently visiting relatives in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli Arab Democratic Party meanwhile praised Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait saying it was the first step towards "Arab unity."

"This is a positive act even if it was accomplished through force. Italy and the United States also used forced to achieve their unity," said party MP 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawishah. Several Palestinian figures, including the President of the Journalists' Union Radwan Abu-'Ayyash hailed proposals by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn linking a solution to the Gulf crisis to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"The Iraqi proposal is the only one capable of saving the Middle East from war," Mr. Abu-'Ayyash told a press conference in Jerusalem. Leading Palestinian nationalist Faysal Husayni on Sunday said the Iraqi plan announced that same day by President Saddam Husayn could help "set up a global plan to end all occupations in the Middle East."

Syria-Palestinian Rift Reported To Aid 'Arafat

JN1408100890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni, staff writer]

[Text] Amman—The escalation of the Gulf crisis, along with Syria's growing cooperation with the U.S., have caused the most serious rift between Damascus and Palestinian dissident groups, consequently enhancing the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, according to Palestinian analysts.

So far all the Damascus-based Palestinian groups—including the dissidents—have declared opposition to a resolution adopted by last Friday's Arab summit in Cairo to send Arab troops to Saudi Arabia to "defend" it against Iraq and called for an all-out confrontation against the American led forces in the Gulf.

The position of these groups contradicts Syrian coordination with the U.S. and agreement to send troops to Saudi Arabia and is expected to undermine these groups' status in Syria.

Officials from the various Damascus-based groups said that they were undeterred by the possible Syrian reaction. "We possibly cannot accept foreign intervention and we have to reflect the popular Palestinian feelings," a Damascus-based official said.

In a sign of defiance of the Syrian position, the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash expressed full support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which

linked the Gulf crisis to an overall peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The initiative opens the door for a comprehensive peace (in the region)," the statement said.

Habash urged the Arab League to take a serious and responsible stand with regard to this initiative and to adopt a positive stand backed by all Arab states.

"The American and Israeli rejection of Saddam Husayn's initiative exposes their false claims that they are seeking peace and respect the international legitimacy," said Habash. "Had the United States been really serious about peace it would not have offered Israel its absolute support and would have recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people's national right to self-determination and a state of their own in Palestine," Habash added.

Habash called on the Palestinian and Arab masses to resist the "American invasion of the Gulf" by all available means until the United Sates responds to the call of peace.

The PLO's opposition to the Cairo summit resolutions have also created resentment among some PLO officials with pro-Egyptian and pro-Kuwaiti leanings.

According to PLO officials, internal opposition to the PLO's pro- Iraq stance is very weak, and does not constitute a serious problem for the organisation.

This internal resentment surfaced Monday when unnamed PLO officials were quoted as saying that the PLO abstained and did not vote against the Cairo summit resolutions.

PLO officials later dismissed the report as a "deliberate, misleading leak by pro-Egyptian" officials.

The officials denied that the report reflected a rift within the PLO, pointing out that opposition to American intervention in the Gulf has enhanced Palestinian national unity.

The report, which was carried by Reuters from Tunis, however, reflected resentment by some PLO officials to the pro-Iraq PLO stance as well as the influence of Egypt, and probably some Gulf states, within the organisation.

PLO officials contacted in Tunis told the Jordan Times that the person who leaked "the false" report aimed at appeasing the Egyptian government and described it as "a hopeless attempt" to influence the Palestinian public opinion.

Reuters quoted an unidentified Palestinian official in Tunis as denying previous reports that the PLO had voted against the resolution to send Arab troops to "defend" Saudi Arabia against Iraq. Immediately after the news was broadcast on Jordan Television prime time news, at eight the Palestinian ambassador to Amman, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, denied the report stressing the PLO's rejection of the Cairo summit resolutions.

"The report is groundless," he said. The PLO's opposition to the transformation of Arab territories into a military base for the American aggression against Iraq," [sentence, quotation mark as published] 'Abd-al-Rahim told the Jordan news agency, Petra, in reference to the Cairo summit's resolutions which fell short from criticising the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia.

"The PLO views the Cairo summit resolutions as illegal," he said, in an allusion to the Arab League Charter which stipulates that resolutions should be endorsed through consensus and not by majority vote.

In its late news bulletin in Arabic, Jordan Television carried the Palestinian ambassador's denial of the first report. PLO officials in Amman said that the organisation had to move fast to clarify its position for fear that the report would stir confusion among Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories where support for Saddam Husayn is overwhelming.

A separate PLO statement indicated that the organisation suspected that the claim was made by the pro-Egyptian Palestinian ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

Jordanian daily Arabic language newspapers Monday quoted a Palestinian official spokesman as saying that statements by Kamal regarding the PLO's position on the Arab summit resolutions "did not reflect the PLO's stance."

In the view of political observers the strongly-worded statement reflected the organisation's determination not to put an end to any form of Egyptian pressure.

PLO officials and Arab journalists recalled that Kamal has consistently tried to promote the Egyptian viewpoint within the organisation.

But it was the first time, according to the officials, that a statement discrediting Kamal was issued. "It is a sign that the PLO has made up its mind and is no longer ready to tolerate Egyptian influence within the organisation," a Palestinian official commented.

Over the last few months, the Egyptian press has waged a campaign against PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after Palestinian officials publicly resented what they described as "Egyptian pressures on the organisation to accept American pre-conditions" for the resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

The PLO's stance at the Arab summit, however, has created resentment in Palestinian officials who are closely connected with Riyadh, Cairo and the deposed ruling family of Kuwait. "I guess the game of trying to balance the influence of all Arab states within the PLO is over," said a Palestinian analyst.

PLO officials did not express serious concern about a serious rift and were encouraged by increasing indications that all Palestinian groups are moving closer to a unified line.

The two major Damascus-based groups—PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)—did not hesitate from the beginning of the crisis to express full-fledged support for Iraq. Officials from both groups said that their stand would not be affected by any Syrian pressures. "It's a historic turning point and those who refrain from joining the emerging confrontation front are standing against the popular will," said a Damascus-based DFLP official, who asked to not be named.

The two groups already have major offices in Tunis and their presence in Jordan has increased since the parliamentary elections last November.

The change started evolving immediately after the U.S. sent troops to Saudi Arabia. For while pro-Syrian groups initially joined in the condemnation of Iraq; the American position and the results of the Cairo summit have triggered a major shift in their position.

On Sunday, two groups which broke away from the PLO in 1983, issued statements calling for confrontation against the American troops in the Gulf.

Both the Damascus-based groups—the Fatah uprising (which broke away from the mainstream Fatah in 1983) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), accused the U.S. of trying to "impose it's hegemony in the area."

Another tiny group, the Popular Struggle Front—which had maintained links with 'Arafat but had refused to fully rejoin the PLO institutions—went further by describing Saudi approval to receive American troops as "a flagrant provocation to popular sentiments."

OPEC Affairs

Iranian President Warns Against 'Treachery'

LD1408143390 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a written message from his Venezuelan counterpart Carlos Andres Perez today. The message was handed over by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart in a meeting here, where he said he is also carrying similar message for the heads of several OPEC member states.

"We are gravely concerned over the outcome of the Iraqi action (aggression) which is taking place in this region for a second time," Planchart said. He said his country has decided to council with several OPEC members on oil, and to safeguard the current unity between the members in the wake of the present crisis in the Persian Gulf.

President Rafsanjani in reply said the oil reserves in the world should be used at such time (of shortage), and that the world should not pressure OPEC to make up for the fall in the oil output. "Opec members equally have no right to commit treachery against their people in favour of the global oil devourers," cautioned the president, noting that if the world had no oil reserve, that was another thing, but now that it has, it should consume its own reserves.

"Big oil companies in the world intend to harm OPEC by taking advantage of the current situation," he stressed. Hoj. Rafsanjani noted that OPEC should preserve its unity at any cost, since "any lone-riding would be a treason against OPEC, and would ultimately be to the detriment of the lone-riders." Planchart who arrived here from Saudi Arabia Monday, will leave for Algeria to submit a similar message to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Algeria

French Envoy on Bendjedid Talks, Iraq Embargo

LD1508001690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] France is following a separate path [on the Gulf crisis]—no economic blockade—but Paris is, nevertheless, adopting a position of firmness. Pierre Mauroy, one of Francois Mitterrand's 12 special envoys to 24 capitals, clearly made this understood in a statement this evening after meeting with the President in Oran. France has associated itself with the economic sanctions and that is known; France even took the initiative of proposing sanctions at the level of the EEC. Pierre Mauroy said this evening that an embargo is an embargo and not a blockade which puts one into the position of cobelligerent. Mauroy, first secretary of the French Socialist Party, thus explained the French policy concerning the Gulf crisis to the president. The talks lasted one hour and 20 minutes. Let us listen to him. His remarks were recorded by Abdellkader Djabar:

[Begin recording] [Mauroy] President Francois Mitterrand has pointed out that an embargo is an embargo which has been decided and which has to be implemented as soon as the UN has decided on it. But it is not a blockade which is an act of war and you know the secretary general of the UN has confirmed this interpretation which is quite clear. And then I think that the fact of sending envoys to all these countries—24 countries, about 10 envoys—is sufficient proof that one wants, at the same time, to (?recall) French policy [words indistinct] the firmness.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your presence in Algeria, Mr. Pierre Mauroy, what does it represent for President Francois Mitterrand?

[Mauroy] Listen, precisely that the French policy is known but I think it is also important to be here to listen, to listen to President Chadli [Bendjedid].

[Correspondent] What did President Chadli say to you?

[Mauroy] To see what his own position is, finally, I think that the Algerian position...I shall say no more about it. We had an hour and 20 minutes to speak, and I should say that President Chadli expressed his opinions. What was said to us is, I think, important and much of what he said to me I have to keep for the French president to hear first since I (?know) that certain pieces of information were of prime importance and are perhaps not known at present.

[Correspondent] What would the French position be in the case of a foreign intervention in the Gulf countries?

[Mauroy] We have explained the French position: It is under French command. The president has stated clearly that the French fleet, forces, which we have there are forces of deterrence. They are forces to help our nationals get out of Iraq where they are held prisoner at the same time as nationals of countries other than France. It would also be to intervene as soon as the situation deteriorated and at all events taking account of a situation that the French president would assess—he himself when it is really his responsibility and his authority. I am telling you that on this question, France would respond to it in accordance with developments—which are always to be feared but up to now are fortunately not present—and secondly in accordance with the decisions of the President.

[Correspondent] But as it is an Arab problem, what would you think of a purely Arab solution?

[Mauroy] Listen, the French are saying this and the president himself expressed this first when he said: [Word indistinct] this conflict, let us already leave the Arab countries to find a solution. The problem is that the Arab nations, and moreover this does not (?surprise me), are not all on the same wavelength and on this level, even the Maghreb demonstrates a certain diversity. [end recording]

[Announcer] The talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and Pierre Mauroy also dealt with French-Algerian bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Dismisses Threat to Saudi Arabia

LD1408215890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Algerian television today contacted the Iraqi ambassador to Algeria and asked him to express his opinion on the developments in the Gulf area. The first question by reporter Mourad Abou to the ambassador centered on the possibility of an outbreak of a total war in the area. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] With regard to your question; and it is: Do you expect a total war in the Gulf? These expectations are real. It is because of the numbers which America and its allies have concentrated, these great numbers of troops and modern warplanes in a holy Arab area to which they were brought, in order to protect the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as they claim. I do not know whom the protection is for. America, Britain, France and Israel are not protecting Saudi Arabia and the holy shrines in Mecca, Al-Madinah and the tomb of the Prophet—may the peace and blessing of God be upon him.

As for the imaginary threat from Iraq, which they have been talking about, it is nothing but illusion and dreams. Iraq has treaties and good relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We expect the same as you. The great concentrations in this areas indicate that there is a premeditated and treacherous aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. These great concentrations are enough or even more than enough to rebut their claim that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is being exposed to an aggression.

[Abou] Concerning the blockade, what are the capabilities of the Iraqi people in confronting it?

[Ambassador] We rely on God first of all and on our Iraqi people, who have endured a great deal. This is not the first such experience which the Iraqi people have endured. The nationalization experience in 1970 was also a blockade against us. We nationalized Iraqi oil. We endured and we triumphed. The experience of the continuous eight-year war; again, here we endured and the Iraqi people endured and they triumphed. This is another experience the Iraq people are engaged in; but this experience will actually be better and preferable to us, because the entire Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf constitute a volcano which supports Iraq and supports Iraq's stand and its president. This fact gives us a strong new impetus to stand fast and to challenge.

[Abou] How do you envisage a solution to the crisis?

[Ambassador] Iraq wanted an Arab solution to the crisis. But some wanted it to be an American, British, and Israeli solution. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Meets With Kuwaiti Minister

NC1408174390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who forwarded an important message on the situation in his country and the developments in the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

Minister Details Amir Message

NC1508050690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Speaking after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Dr.'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that he delivered a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to the president.

He added that the Kuwaiti amir's message expressed the Kuwaiti Government's and people's gratitude to Egypt's president and the great Egyptian people who stood up to support justice. The amir of Kuwait also asked President Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and the great Egyptian people to care for the Kuwaitis residing in Egypt who cannot return to their country because of the invasion.

'Abd-al-Majid Says Saddam Initiative Not Clear

NC1308143790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in what Husayn termed as his initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis, was not at all clear on the section concerning Kuwait.

Commenting on this initiative to correspondents today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Iraqi president referred to the formulation of specific arrangements for Kuwait but did not clarify these arrangements, thus creating new ambiguity about the main problem, which is the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of legitimacy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt believes in the need for a withdrawal, and demands Iraq take measures to show its good intentions and credibility. It also asks Iraq for a definite stand on the Kuwaiti invasion operation.

Volunteers Throng to Saudi, UAE Embassies

NC1408164290 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug 14 (AFP)—A second contingent of Egyptian troops will leave here later Tuesday for Saudi Arabia to join an estimated 3,000 soldiers who arrived there on Saturday, informed sources said here.

But they would provide no details on the number of troops, nor would they disclose the nature of their assignment.

Egyptian forces are being deployed in Saudi Arabia in line with an Arab League decision to shore up Saudi defenses against a possible Iraqi attack from Kuwait, which Baghdad invaded and annexed earlier this month.

Several hundred Egyptians, shouting anti-Iraqi slogans, gathered earlier Tuesday outside the Saudi embassy here, offering to volunteer for the Saudi armed forces, correspondents said.

Embassy sources said as many as 9,000 Egyptians had signed up to fight for Saudi Arabia against any attack by Iraq, with nearly 3,000 enrolling daily since Saturday.

Hundreds of Egyptian youths were also offering their services at the embassy of the United Arab Emirates, where a spokesman said names of all candidates were taken down.

But the spokesman stressed that the embassy had received no official instructions to enroll any Egyptian in the UAE armed forces.

According to analysts most of the volunteers were young Egyptians who had done their military service and are currently unemployed.

Suez Canal Source Reaffirms Free Passage Mandate

NC1408143690 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Ismailia, 14 Aug (MENA)—A responsible source in the Suez Canal Authority has stressed that the canal cannot be closed to ships bound for Iraq because of the international agreement on transit through the Suez Canal signed in Constantinople in 1888 and because Iraq is not in a state of war with Egypt. He said that if this measure is applied, it will affect the canal income from the tolls imposed on the ships using it.

The source also stressed that those who are calling on Egypt to close the canal to ships bound for Iraq must seek to stop these ships and to keep them in the original ports of export and not to stop them during their transit through the Suez Canal. He said that those who are demanding that Egypt should do this must go back to the Constantinople agreement which regulates the laws and rules for passage in the canal and according to which Egypt cannot prevent any ship from using the canal unless the ship sails under the flag of a country which is in a state of war with Egypt.

He stressed, too, that closure of the canal to ships bound for Iraq to tighten the economic siege currently imposed on Iraq will not achieve this aim because these ships could change direction and reach al-'Aqabah instead of Iraq. There, they can unload their cargo in al-'Aqabah from where it can be transported overland to Iraq because of the existing economic facilities which the Jordanian Government has recently granted Iraq.

The responsible source also stated that no apparent effects on transit tolls have appeared so far following the recent events in the Gulf, noting that there is no connection between the drop in the number of tankers using the canal and the drop in revenue from the transit tolls because the tolls are calculated according to tonnage, not to the numbers of the ships using the canal. He said that the average number of transits are now at their normal level according to tonnage and that contrary to all expectations of a drop in the canal revenue as a result in the drop in the number of oil tankers using it, it is expected that the canal revenue will increase as a result of the daily increase in oil prices. He added that this is because a large number of tankers which used to sail around the Cape of Good Hope would prefer to change their usual direction and use the Suez Canal to save time and operating expenses.

165 Iraqis Return Home via Jordan

NC1308151390 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1430 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—An extra flight operated by Jordanian Airlines left Cairo airport today en route to Amman with 165 Iraqis aboard.

The Iraqis had arrived in Egypt several days before the recent events took place, and wanted to return home in view of the current developments.

Column Urges 'Annihilation' of Saddam

JN1408160090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
12 Aug 90 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat came to the summit on board an Iraqi plane. He was carrying an Iraqi message. He told all the delegations that he met of the last meeting he had with Saddam. He said that the Iraqi president addressed him in a very emotional and passionate tone, saying: Do you remember, Abu-'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] when you were besieged in Beirut, when you said that you were smelling paradise and its fragrance? O Abu-'Ammar, I am currently in the same position. I am surrounded by all. However, I smell paradise and its fragrance. I thought of you a lot—every time the siege became fiercer. The meaning of the message is clear. Saddam wants to say that he is ready for suicide, and that he will not back down on his decisions. He was beseeching the Arabs, asking them not to support any military solution. He was saying: I am your brother, and I am being besieged. I need your support. O guys, the Americans are going to kill me!

Abu-'Ammar was an honest messenger. He sought to instill despair and fear into the hearts of delegations. He sought sympathy for Saddam against the international blockade which was closing in around Iraq. As for the Arabs, they are emotional. However, many questions were raised. These are some of them: Who moved the world to raise hell against Saddam? Did the United States ask him to threaten Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in his capacity as Iraqi leader? Did the United States deceive and hypnotize him, luring him into making the invasion decision? Did it ask him to threaten others? Did Saddam seek the advice of any Arab before embarking on his ugly crime—something that would entitle him to Arab sympathy? Did Saddam accept Arab mediation? How then can the Arabs reject U.S. intervention? Saddam has embroiled himself in this mess. Therefore, he alone must bear the consequences of what he has done, whether the solution is Arab or international.

Egypt has done a great deal to prevent the invasion from taking place. Likewise, Saudi Arabia has offered its good offices to avert this occupation. As for Saddam, he failed to heed the voice of reason. When he defied the entire world, the world decided to stop the new Hitler, since he has become a danger to the region, to the Arabs, and to the world, which has a vested interest in ensuring a continued flow of oil deliveries and also in maintaining a regional balance.

Sometimes we do forget. 'Abd-al-Nasir, Saddam's tutor, concluded an evacuation treaty with Britain. This treaty provided for a return of British troops to Cairo if one of the region's states was exposed to aggression. When

Saudi Arabia offered the United States facilities, it did nothing different from what 'Abd-al-Nasir accepted in 1954. We forgot that the United States initially moved without obtaining Saudi approval. The United States moved forces to the Gulf waters before obtaining this approval. When the distance between Iraqi and Saudi troops was only 6 km, the United States had to ask for facilities from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia approved the U.S. request.

But has Saddam's message as conveyed by Abu-'Ammar managed to achieve its objective? It goes without saying that Saddam has become a dangerous man, because he is rejecting everything. Besides, annihilating him has become a necessity. There would be no difference if this task were to be performed by Arabs or international parties. All Arabs will be sorry for the Iraqi Army. As for Saddam, nobody will be sorry for him, because he is the man who exploded all this without heeding reason or making any sensible calculations. Saddam failed to heed reason and sensible calculations.

As for Abu-'Ammar, he is the best Saddam messenger, because of their longtime coordination. Furthermore, they have been partners in fragmenting the Arab world since the convocation of the Baghdad summit [of 1978] when Egypt was isolated and estranged, and up to the last summit where the two assailed Egypt. 'Arafat firmly supports Saddam, because he wants a piece of the cake. Five-star hotel fees, air travel fares, and prices in general in Europe have risen. Consequently, the cost of the Palestinian struggle has increased. And Abu-'Ammar needs expense accounts and a cost of living allowance.

Commentary Views Saddam Husayn Call for Jihad

NC1108211290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: The Road to Jerusalem Does Not Pass Through Kuwait]

[Text] President Mubarak began his speech to the Cairo emergency summit by stressing that this summit was not intended to be, and will not be, an arena for embarrassing the fraternal Iraqi nation, leveling accusations at it one way or another, or belittling its role or status. The Arab countries hold Iraq and its people in high esteem and highly value its role as a source of Arab power throughout the long history of the Arab nation.

Thus it became clear from the first moments of the summit that the Arab kings and presidents were enthusiastic about Iraq's unique Arab role. While the Cairo summit was deep in discussions, study, and consultations and was reviewing matters from all aspects in search for the solution that would save Iraqi face and restore to the Arabs their dignity before the world—during these difficult moments, Iraqi radio broadcast a long rhetorical statement on behalf of President Saddam Husayn. In it, he insulted some, belittled others, and incited all those who believe in the issue of struggle against imperialist interests. He also attacked what he called the corrupt and weak leaders who are the agents of imperialism. He called for toppling the regimes in some Arab countries. He also called on Egyptians to stand with Iraq in its pan-Arab campaign by preventing foreign ships from crossing the Suez Canal and preventing the use of Egyptian airspace for those who want to intervene against Iraq.

The truth is that Saddam Husayn, who surprised the Arab world as well as the rest of the world, did not submit his pan-Arab program to anyone so that all the Arab forces would rally around and support him. The only thing here is that the Arab masses—who President Saddam addressed with resonant and rhetorical expressions on the need for martyrdom—woke one dawn to see Iraq's vast armies invade Kuwait, topple the regime there, seize all Kuwait's resources and wealth, and declare the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq in an eternal and indivisible unity. Does President-leader Saddam Husayn believe that the masses who have been sated with slogans of pan-Arabism and common destiny could back his plots in which he has prepared well to usurp a homeland, scatter an entire people, and link his economy to that of Kuwait?

Saddam's continued appeals from Iraqi radio calling for holy jihad disguise evil intentions. No one has committed aggression against Iraq, and no one has robbed it of anything. On the contrary, the whole world which is now opposed to Iraq is the same world that stood with him strongly and persistently in Iraq's war with Iran. The grave issue that President Saddam Husayn ignored in his statement to the Arab people and Islamic nation and which explains the absence of political foresight in his behavior is the incitement of peoples against their rulers. We would like to draw the attention of Iraq's rulers to the fact that no one in this world accepts anyone's custodianship, not even for political options. Iraq's leaders have forgotten that the peoples have been tested and are capable of differentiating between what is right and wrong and between claims of heroism and true struggle.

President Saddam called for people to set fire to their leaders. It is up to every group of people to reply to Saddam's message. But it is our right to tell the Baghdad leaders that their call to Egyptians to close the Suez Canal to foreign ships is the epitome of political naivete. The Egyptian people, who stood with Iraq in its bitter war with Iran, knew that they were performing their role within the framework of the pan-Arab mission in which they believe and for whose sake their sons were martyred. The Egyptian people stood with Iraq in its tribulation even when diplomatic relations between Cairo and Baghdad were cut off. The Egyptian people also played the most splendid role when they worked in civilian installations and institutions to support the war machine, thus compensating for the Iraqis' role in the war fields. They did so on the basis of a noble and sublime Arabic concept which knows how to extend a

helping hand in the hour of ordeal and to stand with a brother in moments of danger.

Cairo knows when to stand with the brothers and also knows its international role. It also knows that the Suez Canal is a vital navigation artery and that Egypt has no right to prevent anyone from using it unless it is in a state of war with it. We are not in a state of war with anyone. The noble Egyptian people do not accept at all the logic of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and always support rights anywhere. These people do not change their principles according to circumstances, friendships, alliances, or even for the sake of the Arab Cooperation Council. The Egyptian people which stood with Iraq in its war with Iran are the same people who are standing with the Kuwaiti people in their ordeal under the burden of Iraqi occupation.

Despite all these Iraqi excesses, we still hope that the Iraqi leadership will return to its senses and realize that demagogic demonstrations against Egyptian or Saudi embassies do not change the situation. The demonstrators can fill Baghdad's streets and accuse all world leaders of treason, plotting, and being agents of imperialism, and they can shout many other idiotic slogans. But they will never be able to convince a single Arab child that the road to the liberation of Jerusalem must pass first through Kuwait.

Israeli Consul in Alexandria Arrested for Spying

NC1408092990 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Spy"]

[Text] Egyptian security organs have arrested Israel's consul in Alexandria, Abraham Shalul [name as published], on suspicion of espionage. The security organs seized several transceivers which are used in international espionage and confiscated some important papers and information about Egypt and Alexandria which they found in Shalul's apartment in the San Stephano quarter of Alexandria. Shalul had been under constant surveillance for six months after security organs observed that the Israeli consul gave parties almost daily to which he invited some businessmen and employees at foreign consulates in Alexandria. They also observed that he and a group of employees at the Israeli consulate frequently visited tourist areas.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for UN Security Council Meeting

LD1408203590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made the following statement to JANA [announcer-read]:

I call for a session of the United Nations Security Council to be convened in Geneva so a number of Arab and other leaders will be able to discuss there, to issue resolutions to lead to the organization of the situation in the Gulf and to the rearrangement of matters according to the UN Charter. As a UN member-states we accept everything issued by this organization and we reject the individual attempts of UN members-states with the aim to control and rule. No state has the right to carry out sanctions and practices in the name of the United Nations.

The call for presence in the Gulf and the call for carrying out any action there must only be issued by the UN Security Council. Any force present in the Gulf which does not come under the emblem of the UN, is not set up by a resolution issued by the UN Security Council, and is not under its command, is considered a colonialist force of invasion and must be fought. For this, I have called for this session's convention to make clear matters such as these and to spare the world an unnecessary disaster, which can be avoided with this proposal.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Iraq-Kuwait Situation

LD1308230190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi to an unidentified CNN Reporter; date and place of interview not given; Reporter speaks in English with translation into Arabic—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Following the Arab summit here in Cairo, Libya did not condemn the invasion of one Arab country by another. Why is that?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That is not true. We strongly condemn the entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwait. [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Why is it then that Libya and the PLO are the...[changes thought] Why did Libya not vote along with the majority?

[Al-Qadhdahfi] On the contrary, Libya is with the majority. Generally, this decision is not legitimate, according to the Arab League Charter, because it has been [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [words indistinct] In the meantime, Saddam Husayn has called for jihad or holy war. How do you think that this will affect the situation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is something normal. He certainly tries [words indistinct] win public opinion.

[Reporter] In this part of the world, calling a war a holy war is a special plea, is it not?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] Do you agree with Saddam Hussayn in calling for jihad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Generally, I have a different opinion—different from the Iraqis, from the Saudis, and from the Americans. I wanted to say that I am against the entrance

of the Iraqis into Kuwait and the forceable annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. I am also against the United States replacing the United Nations. All the procedures that are happening in our (?region) are illegitimate. From the Saudi side, from the Iraqi side, and from the U.S. side, from the Arab summit side, they are illegitimate.

We have the United Nations and the Security Council to deal with the problem. And we are going [word indistinct] according to their resolutions. It means that when the United States tries [word indistinct] the United Nations resolution; [words indistinct] this (?stirs) public opinion against the Arabs. [passage indistinct]

But the United States deals with the whole problem with Britain and their alliance. This is rejected because simply it precludes the role of the United Nations.

[Reporter] I quite understand what you said about the United States going to Saudi Arabia and that we should leave that alone. Are you saying that is all right, but when other Western European nations join the United States that is not all right? I don't understand that.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is an independent issue. I mean that Saudi Arabia is afraid of Iraq and it asked for U.S. forces; this is an independent issue. But my objection is against the United States solving the problem militarily or economically instead of the United Nations. I told you from the very beginning that my opinion is different from the Saudis, the Iraqis, the United States, and the Arab countries. I am for the United Nations and for the resolutions of the Security Council. All Arabs accept a UN solution—military or economic. But the United States goes as far as to substitute for the United Nations in solving the problem in Kuwait, Iraq and the Gulf and this is rejected. Therefore, it is illegitimate.

[Reporter] I keep hearing you talk about the illegitimacy of the United States action. What about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is illegitimate and it is rejected. This is a very definite stand.

[Reporter] Will Libya join a worldwide embargo against Iraq?

[al-Qadhdhafi] Libya is a UN member. It is subject to UN resolutions. But the United States has not given the United Nations a chance to start applying its resolutions.

[Reporter] Most of the world however, is involved in joining an embargo against Iraq. I am just wondering if you are inclined to have Libya join that embargo.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have previously answered this question.

[Reporter] Let me ask you if Libya will contribute forces to either side?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Which two sides?

[Reporter] The question I asked was: Is Libya willing to contribute military forces to either side?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Does anyone need forces from Libya? [Interpreter can be heard in English: "No one needs forces from Libya."]

[Reporter] What are the chances of [words indistinct] of an actual war in the crisis—the chances of a war?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If we implement the United Nations resolutions and respect the Security Council resolutions, I do not believe that we would need war. First, the United States has no right to fight Iraq. Under what pretext would it fight Iraq? Only if Iraq attacked Saudi Arabia, and I do not believe that Iraq has any intention of attacking Saudi Arabia.

[Reporter] The crisis in the Middle East for the first time in recent history pits Arabs, Arab brothers against Arab brothers. You have been one of the leaders in this region espousing the Arab nation. You are a proponent—one of the leading proponents. How does he [as heard] view this latest confrontation between Arab brothers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What do you mean?

[Reporter] We have a joint Arab force of 5,000, a contingent of 5,000 to begin with, Egyptian and Moroccan troops on the soil of Saudi Arabia, next to U.S. soldiers, facing Iraqi soldiers on the other side of the border; they are confronting them. This is Arab brother against Arab brother in military fashion.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, it is now a farce. The time of the presence of Arab force to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraq has passed. An Arab seeking an Arab's help or protecting an Arab from aggression by another Arab brother is [word indistinct]. With the presence of 250,000 U.S. soldiers [figure as heard] on Saudi land, the presence of Arab forces is a farce and meaningless.

[Reporter] With so much military hardware in this region, both in the sea and on the ground, the chances of a confrontation quickly being sparked are great, and, therefore, the chances of actual combat and military confrontation are very great. How great a chance do you feel there is given this very tense situation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] From a legal or political point of view there is no justification for war. However, if someone wants to exploit the situation, he could instigate war to achieve other ambitions.

[Reporter] You said that there is no legal justification for confrontation in this area and I said that is true but the scenario in the area is so tense with so much military hardware on both sides that an accident could happen, a missile could fire one way or another, or someone could let up a machine gun or an airplane can overfly the border. Based on this tense situation, how much chance of an armed confrontation do you see?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The probability is there and its result will be a disaster.

[Reporter] Along these lines—both sides possess chemical weapons. If such a disaster were to occur, what is the likelihood of chemical weapons being used in this confrontation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If an enemy enters your land, it is your right to use all the means with which to destroy the enemy.

[Reporter] There are many, many Americans and Europeans in both Kuwait and Iraq. The question is are they likely to be taken hostage in the situation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The possibility is there, regrettably. At any rate the U.S. position is a weak one in the Gulf, morally and politically, irrespective of the huge military presence. First, the United States is the one which has created such a precedent in Panama and Grenada. Consequently it has no right to speak about Kuwait since it has committed a similiar act. Then we ask: Why was no siege imposed on the U.S. coast and no sanctions were imposed against the United States? The second point is that the United States is now taking the place of the United Nations and this weakens its position from a legal point.

Here we must distinguish clearly between the position of the United States in Saudi Arabia and that in the region—they are totally different. Its behavior in Kuwait, Iraq and the Gulf is illegal and rejected, but the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia, this is a different matter which concerns the United States and Saudi Arabia.

[Reporter] How do you differentiate between the U.S. presence in the Gulf and that on the [Arabian] peninsula?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] U.S. presence in Saudi Arabi, even if rejected by pan-Arabism, is legally legitimate because an independent state requested forces from an independent state to defend it. But the presence of the U.S. outside Saudi Arabia to deal with the Kuwait problem or to attack Iraq, this is aggression and the U.S. has no such right. This is the task of the United Nations.

[Reporter] Are you talking specifically about the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf and the possibility of a blockade?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naval blockade, economic boycott, and even the use of armed forces—these, in such a crisis, are legal if the United Nations approve, and they are supervised by the UN Security Council with UN forces, not U.S. forces.

[Reporter] I am sorry, I have difficulty understanding. What I hear you saying is that it was all right for the Saudi Arabian royal family to ask U.S. military troops to come to their country to protect them, but it was not all right for the United States to have naval forces in the Gulf and possibly implement a blockade. Now I hear you saying you disagree with all of that. I am trying to understand exactly if I heard correctly.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not talking about rejected or not rejected. Iraqi presence in Kuwait is rejected, U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia is rejected, U.S. presence in the Gulf is rejected. All these are rejected from the aspect of rejection. What I am talking about is what is legal in accordance with international law and what is not legal, irrespective of rejection.

[Reporter] (?While) it is illegal to invade another country, which is what Iraq did to Kuwait, it is legal for a country to ask for another country's troops in defense, and that is what the United States did in Saudi Arabia. Is it not?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The presence of Iraq in Kuwait is illegal and it is unacceptable. The presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia is legal in terms of international law, because an independent country has asked another independent country for troops to defend it. However, it is unacceptable in Pan-Arab terms, in Arab terms, and in terms of the region's security.

[Reporter] Why did Libya not vote along with the majority? What do you view as objectionable [regarding U.S. troops deployment in Saudi Arabia]? It is religious, or is it—what is it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is religious and pan-Arab. It is also a threat to the security of the region. These U.S. forces may never leave the region. A part of the U.S. forces will remain on the Arabian Peninsula forever, even if these forces have to change the Saudi [royal] family and replace them. This is just like the U.S. troops in World War II. They intervened to help Britain, and to liberate France from Hitler. Hitler was finished and France was liberated, but, despite that, U.S. troops are still there.

[Reporter] It is very interesting that you use the equation of Hitler, because many people, many analysts in the world have done exactly that with Saddam Husayn. Well, the equation is history repeating itself from the late 1930's; negotiations breaking down and then a blitzkrieg attack into a neighboring country. That is the equation. How do you feel about it?

[Al-Qadhdahfi] This means that the United States is looking for another pretext to occupy the Middle East as it occupied Europe.

[Reporter] But that does not address the question. You equated the United States' action with Hitler, and I am saying that other people are equating Saddam Husayn's action with Hitler's history.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I do not care about these frivilous comparisons. I am concerned with the essence of the issue we are discussing. At that time, the UN did not exist, but now the UN and the Security Council exist and all the problems should be resolved under the UN umbrella.

[Reporter] This crisis has created many realignments in terms of allegiances. I am talking specifically about Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO. Kuwait was a great supporter of the PLO and Saudi Arabia was too. Now that Yasir 'Arafat has stayed with Saddam Husayn in this dispute, do you know what kind of impact this is going to have on the PLO and the Palestinian question in this part of the world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The situation has a background in recent Arab politics.

[Reporter] Is it likely that Yasir 'Arafat will now lose much of his funding because of his new allegiance to Saddam Husayn or his allegiance to Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have no answer to this. I have no answer to such matters.

[Reporter] If that were to be the case, would Libya be willing to pick up some of the financing that won't be coming from other countries now?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It would be better if we confine our discussion to the issue of the hour, instead of going into other avenues.

[Reporter] I agree. I have one final question. Saddam Husayn wants to be, or is said to want to be very much like Jamal Abd al-Nasir—to be the leader of the Arab nation. I wonder how the Libyan leader views the Iraqi president?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I can see that the whole region, from the United States to Saudi Arabia to Iraq, is in a state of madness. They are getting into crazy and unreasonable deals. Someone like me who likes to defend just issues and issues of destiny, and loves peace, must reject all the states of madness that are dominating the region.

[Reporter] Did you answer the question that I asked? I won't elaborate, but I am asking for your personal impression of Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Excuse me, I understood the question and that is my answer: [preceding sentence in English] It is a state of madness, from Iraq to the United States to Saudi Arabia. All these forms of behavior are madness as far as I am concerned, and I reject them. If we judge Saddam Husayn as crazy, we must also judge Bush as crazy because he has reacted to this serious extent, and we must judge the rulers of Saudi Arabia as crazy because they have got the region involved to this extent. We must also judge the petroleum policy as a crazy policy because it has brought us to this. The petroleum policy is crazy because it [sentence is not completed].

[Reporter] Thank you.

Morocco

Contingent of Troops Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC1408212990 Paris AFP in English 2119 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug 14 (AFP)—A contingent of Moroccan troops was sent to Saudi Arabia on Sunday at Riyadh's request to help defend that country against possible foreign aggression, an authoritative source here said late Tuesday.

The contingent numbered about 1,200 soldiers, the source said.

Sudan

'Arafat Arrives for Visit, Reports on Yemeni Talks

Meets With Al-Bashir

EA1408174290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, arrived at Khartoum airport at 1100 this morning from the Republic of Yemen. He was received at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman; 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister; and Colonel 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the secretary general of the RCC. Also present were Mr. Abu Raja'i Salah, ambassador of the Palestinian state in Khartoum, and Tariq Muhammad Yahya, Iraqi ambassador to Sudan.

The two presidents, 'Umar al-Bashir and Yasir 'Arafat, held a meeting with the visiting officials in the airport, during which they discussed a number of issues facing the Arab masses.

In a press statement after the meeting, the Palestinian president clarified that he had informed Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir on the results of his discussions with the Yemeni president, 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, pointing out that he delivered to him a letter from Lt. Gen. Bashir on the endeavors to be exerted in solving the current crisis and arriving at an Arab solution [words indistinct]. President 'Arafat added that Lt. Gen. Bashir's letter to the Yemeni president had received a very positive response. The three presidents also confirmed the need to continue the endeavors which have begun to contain the Arab crisis. The Palestinian president left Khartoum airport at noon today. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs

EA1308213790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, left Khartoum this afternoon after a visit to the country

which lasted several hours and during which he discussed with the Revolution Command Council chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Arab situation in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular.

Seeing him off at Khartoum international airport was Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, who made a statement in which he expressed his pleasure at brother Abu Ammar's ['Arafat's] visit, pointing out that the visit had come during a critical moment through which the Arab nation is passing. He said that the visit had provided an opportunity to discuss the situation following the recent Arab summit, which was convened in order to find a solution to the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf. He further added that the meeting had discussed how to continue with efforts so as to emerge from the crisis and had also discussed the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and ways of supporting it. Lt. Gen 'Umar ended his statement by saying that the meeting with 'Arafat had also discussed issues of mutual interest with a view to facing up to the challenges at this stage.

The Palestinian president also made a statement in which he expressed his pleasure at meeting Lt. Gen 'Umar and stressed that the meeting had been fruitful and had discussed the general Arab situation and the situation inside the Palestinian occupied territories and the Palestinian people's glorious uprising, particularly following the intensification of the enemy Israel's atrocities and the calculated Jewish migration to the occupied territories.

Abu Ammar further said that the meeting had also discussed the current situation in the Gulf region and the developments and events which accompanied the recent summit conference. He said that an important development (?came after) Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which linked together all the Middle East issues and the troop withdrawal's.

It is to be recalled that the Palestinian preisdent, Yasir 'Arafat, had arrived in Khartoum this morning within the framework of a tour to a number of fraternal countries.

Tunisia

'Thousands' March in Support of Iraq

LD1408223990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] A popular march in solidarity with the fraternal people of Iraq took place in the capital, Tunis, this afternoon.

The march consisted of political parties and a number of national organizations, which were led by their secretaries-general. The march started from the workers' headquarters, passed through Mohamed V Street, and turned toward the premises of the League of Arab States. It comprised thousands of male and female citizens who carried photographs of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Tunisian and Iraq flags.

During the march, the masses carried banners and shouted slogans in support of Iraq in the face of the aggression confronting it and condemning those regimes who want to harm Arab soil. They also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces and for a resolution of the crisis within an Arab framework. The masses also sang the national anthem and shouted slogans in support of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his sound positions toward Arab issues.

A delegation consisting of the secretaries-general of the parties and organizations participating in the march met with Chedli Klibi, the secretary-general of the League of Arab States.

After the meeting, Mr. Abderrahim Zouari made a statement to TAP in which he said that Tunisia witnessed a geat event represented in this march which supported the Iraqi people in any danger threatening it and confirmed the soundness of the view of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who called for the postponement of the Arab Summit for two or three days because he was expecting these disappointing results. He explained that the presence of the delegation of national political parties and organizations in the Arab League Headquarters was to express regret about the rift that has taken place in the Arab ranks and that this matter pains us a lot and we must work to avoid it and to stress that the solution of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis can only take place in an Arab framework as mentioned in the speech of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali last Saturday.

With regard to the participation of the national political parties and organizations in the march, the secretary general of the Constitutional Democratic Rally pointed out that this participation had a national dimension and proved that the National Pact was a living bond and that Tunisia stood united in difficult circumstances. A number of party leaders expressed, in their turn, their conviction that this occasion was an opportunity to confirm the agreement of Tunisians in important matters and misfortunes and the united stance of the Tunisian people when internal and external circumstances, alike, require it.

After that, the delegation went to the headquarters of the Iraqi Embassy where it expressed to the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Hamid 'Alwan al Jaburi, Tunisia's solidarity with fraternal Iraq in all the dangers threatening

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Embassy in Manama Confirms Assistance

NC1408211390 Manama WAKH in English 1556 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 14 (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain affirmed that Bahrain has provided and will remain providing assistance to the Kuwaitis, who fled Iraq's invasion, till they return to their homeland.

The embassy's remarks was in responding to an Arab news agency which reported from Tunis that Bahrain had informed Kuwaiti embassies abroad its inability of accomodating more Kuwaitis [sentence as received].

In a statement today, the embassy said, in fact, Bahrain's amir, government and people have opened their doors and hearts to receive the Kuwaiti citizens who fled the Iraqi invasion.

The embassy added that in order to confront this ordeal in an organised manner to ensure security and stabilities for the Kuwaiti citizens, the Kuwaiti missions were keen to draw up a plan to distribute the citizens in various parts of the Arab world.

Kuwait

National Media To Relocate to Cairo

AL-ANBA' Starts Publication

NC1508052290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' has begun publication in Cairo.

The newspaper's first edition, which will appear tomorrow, Wednesday, highlights the speech which Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah was to have delivered at the emergency Arab summit but which was subsequently delivered on his behalf by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

In a front-page column, Walid Khalid al-Marzuq writes under the headline: "AL-ANBA' in the Exile of Free Men": AL-ANBA' is published in exile not by choice, but because of the compulsion imposed by Saddam Husayn's regime on our Kuwaiti homeland which was secure before the Saddamist invasion came to turn our houses, streets, and schools into scenes of devastation and to bring death to our youth and children as a gift from President Saddam Husayn to the Muslim Arab people of Kuwait.

Walid Khalid al-Marzuq continues: It is published in exile. Throughout history, Cairo has been the exile of free men, the refuge of the wronged, and the shield of those who are subjected to harm and ruin.

From Cairo free men have returned to their homelands triumphant by virtue of right and victorious by virtue of the will of God and the people, to defeat the enemies of God, the homeland, and liberty, and to remain grateful to Cairo in their hearts.

To the Egypt of liberty which stood by us in a time of hardship and ordeal,

To the true and loyal Arab President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and to all those who support these pages which are published to defend right, a homeland usurped, and a people stabbed in the back,

To all of you we address our thanks today and tomorrow. Tomorrow is near to those who wait.

The newspaper reports that it will be distributed free of charge.

Shortwave Program Receives Frequency

NC1508054490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0050 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' says in its first edition to be published in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, that the Egyptian Information Ministry has decided to allocate a shortwave frequency for transmission in the name of Kuwait radio.

The paper says that the radio is scheduled to transmit two hours daily. National programs and appeals to Kuwaiti people to resist the Iraqi invasion and organize the Kuwaiti resistance ranks will be made available to the radio.

The paper notes that a number of Kuwaiti broadcasters who were able to leave Kuwait will operate the radio.

Aide Cited on Attack at National Guard Center

PM1508095990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 90 p 2

['Abd-al-Muttalib al-Sayrafi report: "Kuwaiti Military Aide Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 20 Iraqi Tanks Attacked National Guard Headquarters"]

[Text] Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—A Kuwaiti military aide who managed to flee Kuwait two days ago has revealed new details about the Iraqi forces' invasion of the National Guard command center in the al-Mubarakiyah area. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The invading Iraqi forces reached the command center at about 0830 hrs. The center was surrounded by three battalions comprising 1,500 soldiers in Arab uniforms and equipped with guns and light tanks."

He pointed out that "the position command prepared an ambush for the attacking forces by withdrawing to the residential buildings near the command center and managed to annihilate the first groups, using two tanks brought in from the field engineers corps as well as 82-mm mortars and light arms."

And the attacking forces were forced to seek help from the armored corps, which managed to reach the position at about 1700 hrs.

He also pointed out that a full battalion (20 tanks) took part in the attack. They shelled the command center for nearly two hours, damaging the residential areas near the National Guard.

He added: "After the bombardment the tanks started to advanced toward our positions; later we decided to withdraw or hide in the residential areas near the position, taking our light arms with us."

He said that with his own eyes he saw the attacking forces killing some of the wounded and moving some of those captured to unknown destinations. He estimated the losses among the Kuwaiti soldiers defending the position at 200 dead and wounded. This is in the knowledge that the force defending the position did not exceed 1,000.

The military aide, who asked to remain anonymous, called on international organizations and the International Red Cross to intervene with the Iraqi authorities to inquire about the fate of the captured and the missing. He said: "The invading forces seized documents containing the names of those belonging to the guards. They are attacking their homes and moving them to unknown locations."

The Kuwaiti military aide urged all Kuwaiti young men who can carry arms to return to Kuwait and continue the resistance against the invaders. He added: "Weapons are no problem. They can be secured by smuggling them across the border." On the reason for his escape, he said that he brought his family to Bahrain out of fear for their lives, and that he would return in two days with some friends to continue the resistance.

Oman

Sultanate Will Not Increase Oil Production

PM1508105390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 90 p 10

['Isam Hashish report: "Omani Oil Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: High Oil Prices Will Not Tempt Us To Increase Production"]

[Text] An authoritative source at the Petroleum and Minerals Ministry has said that the Sultanate of Oman has not increased its oil production, pointing out that the high oil prices have not tempted the sultanate to increase its production rates despite its ability to increase its output by certain ratios.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the source indicated that there are OPEC and non-OPEC states which have increased their production in an attempt to exploit current conditions, and in a disorganized manner.

Answering a question on the decision announced by the sultanate a few weeks ago to postpone the implementation of plans to increase oil production to 700,000 barrels a day as of the end of this year, the source said that the sultanate is still committed to what it announced and has no plan at the moment to change it to increase production. He emphasized his country's eagerness to maintain stability in the oil markets.

The source pointed out that the sultanate is bound by contracts to sell its oil to a number of states, indicating that the present production rate is 650,000 barrels a day: 600,000 for export and 50,000 for domestic needs.

The source pointed out that plans for developing the oil fields and discovering new ones are proceeding normally and without any change.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Soldiers Arrive in Saudi Arabia 14 Aug

NC1408153590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1517 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Two thousand Egyptian troops will arrive in Saudi Arabia tomorrow to join the Egyptian force there. The new Egyptian unit consists of commandos, paratroopers, and chemical warfare experts.

Meanwhile, diplomats in Riyadh have reported that Syrian soldiers arrived in Saudi Arabia this morning. They did not give details of their number and the places where they were deployed.

The U.S. 82d Airborne division has deployed tanks and missiles in the Saudi desert to confront any contingency.

The British Navy has begun to stop vessels and ask them about their cargoes and destinations in order to implement the UN sanctions on Iraq.

King Fahd Receives Message From Mitterrand

LD1408220190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Aug 90 SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has received a written message from his excellency the French president, Francois Mitterrand. The message was handed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by the secretary general of the French presidency, Jean Louis Bianco, during the latter's meeting with him today in al-Salam palace. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Islamic Envoys

LD1308044590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal al Sa'ud received at his office in Jeddah yesterday the ambassadors of African and Asian Islamic countries

accredited to the Kingdom. His Royal Highness the prince examined with them the resolutions adopted by the emergency Arab summit meeting, which was held in Cairo last Friday, 10 August, and the resolutions adopted by the 9th Islamic Conference Organization Foreign Ministerial Conference, which was also convened in Cairo. His Highness also examined with the ambassadors bilateral relations between the Kingdom and their countries and between the Arab world and their countries as well as the means for bolstering their relations in such a way that is beneficial to Arabs and Muslims.

His Highness also received the ambassador of the Tunisian republic accredited in the Kingdom and examined with him the Cairo emergency Arab summit meeting's resolutions and the means to implement them.

Arrival of U.S. and Arab Support Noted

LD1408195990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpts] In implementation of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Cairo last Friday [10 Aug], advanced units of the Arab and friendly forces have begun arriving in the Kingdom, and the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces have taken all the necessary precautions. More details in this news report:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In response to the situation following the sinful Iraqi invasion of sister Kuwait, the various sectors of the Saudi Armed Forces have witnessed activities aimed at taking all precautions liable to enable them to carry out their national duty and defend the Kingdom's territories, skies, territorial waters, and economic and vital interests.

Since the first hours of the Iraqi forces' invasion of sister Kuwait, the armed forces have been closely watching developments, and rejecting with strong astonishment and condemnation the growing intensity of the Iraqi military massing on the borders of the Kingdom. All the necessary units [have been] moved to the suitable positions to deal firmly and quickly with any source of threats. [passage omitted]

In implementation of the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit, recently held in Cairo concerning uniting Arab forces to back up the Saudi Armed Forces in defending their territories, advanced units of the sister Moroccan and Egyptian forces have begun arriving in the Kingdom to support the Saudi forces in their heroic stand in these critical circumstances, in which the Iraqi leadership has destroyed principles and violated charters, and stripped itself of all moral values. The zealous sons of the Arab nation found that the duty of Arab redemption dictated they should stand by their brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has always been a support for the Arab and Islamic nations in all their just and legitimate causes.

Also, units of the various services of the friendly U.S. Armed Forces, with their full equipment and weapons, have arrived to support the Saudi Armed Forces in these circumstances. This comes as an expression of the sentiments of historic friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States, and of the identity of the common interests of the two friendly countries.

The first units arrived a few days ago and the friendly U.S. forces continue to arrive in an air bridge of giant strategic transport airplanes in addition to what will be arriving by sea within the coming few days.

Also, a Syrian military delegation arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening to coordinate the speedy dispatch of armed forces from the sister Syrian Arab Republic to the Kingdom.

Pakistan Confirms Readiness To Send Troops

LD1408201190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistan has announced its readiness in principle to join the Islamic force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to prevent any aggression against the Kingdom in the face of the Iraqi military buildup on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti [as heard] border. This came in a statement issued last night by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry in which it pointed out that Pakistan's joining of this force came in response to a message from King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, which was delivered by 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Thunayyan, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, who met the president and the prime minister of Pakistan.

'Principled' Arab Stance on Aggression Welcomed

PM1508083090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Aug 90 p 7

[Editorial: "We Are Capable of Repulsing Aggression and Protecting Holy Places"]

[Text] With the Cairo extraordinary Arab summit's resolution on the Iraqi invasion of sisterly Kuwait and the formation of a joint Arab force to participate in defending the Kingdom and the region's states against any possible aggression—with that resolution Arab political action has moved from the age of statements to the age of resolutions accompanied by implementation mechanisms. We have no doubt that it was general Arab awareness of the present Arab dilemma's dimensions which contributed to realizing that shift in the manner reflected by the Cairo extraordinary summit's resolutions.

And undoubtedly the joint Arab forces' arrival in the Kingdom's territory reflects a principled Arab position opposed to aggression and its repercussions. It also reflects a confirmation of the brothers' care for the region's security and safety and of their awareness of the gravity of the potential dangers which could result from any aggression launched by the Iraqi regime.

What must be emphasized is that the Kingdom is capable—with God's help and through its sons' arms—of protecting its people's achievements and defending its soil against any invader or foreigner. But regrettably, the danger threatens not only the Kingdom, but the region as a whole, and requires that the efforts of the region's states and the fraternal Arab and friendly states be pooled in order to confront it.

The Kingdom has always been, and will continue to be, God willing, an element of peace and stability in the region.

And it has always been and will continue to be a force for the prosperity of its people and all the fraternal Arab and Islamic peoples. This is testified by this homeland's record and its continuous generosity to the brothers in the face of challenges facing them or problems afflicting them.

While we in the Kingdom appreciate the brothers' support for the truth in defense of the fixed principles, what saddens us most is some people's ingratitude. What is more regrettable is for a brother to have to brandish his weapon at a brother who was supposed to be a source of strength for him and an element of security and peace.

Now that we are on full alert to defend the homeland and its territory, we hope that we will not be forced to use arms, since we are anxious that not a single drop of blood be shed or any installation or person be harmed. This is in accordance with our Islamic faith and our humanitarian stances, as well as Arab League and UN resolutions. But we warn against any attempt to tamper with the Kingdom's security or perpetrate aggression on its sacred soil, emphasizing that we, with God's help, are capable of protecting our homeland and its achievement and of teaching the aggressor a lesson that he would never forget.

Paper Considers Saddam's 'Lost Credibility'

JN1408170690 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Beat it, Saddam!"]

[Text] History has witnessed throughout the ages some rulers who hide behind the mask of religion to attain their aggressive ambitions and expansionist aims. They attempt to exploit religious sentiment, which is a natural disposition, to serve their mean, vile, earthly ambitions. History has also witnessed that the falsehood of these rulers and their trade in religion is quickly revealed. Neither history nor their peoples have mercy on them.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is among these rulers, now that his lies and tricks have been revealed. Although he was always against Islam and Muslims, he is now calling on Muslims to wage jihad for the alleged purpose of liberating the two holy mosques from foreign spearheads. The evil, mean designs of those promoting these fabrications are known to all Muslims and the world.

Whoever wants to call on the Muslims for what he claims to be jihad must first adhere to the ethics of Islam, and not attack or kill his Muslim and Arab brothers, as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his allies have done in their aggression on Kuwait. This aggression is a disgrace to President Saddam Husayn, and is contrary to noble Arab ethics and true Islamic behavior. Saddam should have been dignified and chivalrous enough not to attack his Arab and Muslim brothers, pillage their properties, and violate their honors before calling on anyone to follow his tyranny and oppresion. Is it right for someone who pursues a secular party founded by a Christian [reference to the Ba'th Party founded by Michel 'Aflaq] to speak in the name of Islam?

No Muslim can believe the Iraqi president now that he has lost his credibility and breached his pledges to some world leaders. His forces took Kuwait by surprise. He committed disgraceful acts against Kuwait, its people, and the Arabs and Muslims residing in it.

Beat it, Saddam! The two holy mosques are in safe hands, and their sanctity and safety will be preserved. Every Muslim knows that Mecca and Medina are more than a thousand kilometers away from any location requiring the presence of military forces due to the crisis caused by Saddam, his adventures, and expansionist designs.

United Arab Emirates

All Iraqi Ships Reportedly Banned From Ports

NC1408122090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have said that all UAE ports have completely banned the entry of all Iraqi tankers and cargo ships into port. However, the sources note that no official statements have been made to this effect.

This move comes at a time when an international ban on Iraqi ships has intensified. Dubayy port authorities refused to allow an Iraqi cargo ship to dock for loading early this morning. Navigation sources report that another cargo ship has been waiting off the port of Dubayy for two days. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1408141590 Dubayy Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim arrived in the United Arab Emirates today for a visit as members of the exiled Kuwaiti Government appeared to mount a new diplomatic drive. Shaykh Salim had earlier today delivered a message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to his counterpart in Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad al-Thani.

Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah headed for Turkey today after talks in Syria with president Hafiz al-Asad. He said that al-Asad had spoken of steps he would be taking in the crisis with other Arab leaders, but he did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah is expected to have talks in Washington today with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and possibly with President George Bush.

Navigation Service Issues Warning on Mines

NC1408131890 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 14 (AFP)—An embargo on Iraqi shipping gathered momentum Tuesday [14 Aug] as the captain of a Cypriot-registered tanker was interrogated in the Gulf and two Iraqi vessels were forced to wait offshore near here.

Shipping sources here said the Al-Abid and the Al-Baya were waiting outside the Jabal 'Ali port 30 kilometers (18 miles) from here, after having been unable to unload their cargo. [passage omitted]

Vessels in the Gulf have meanwhile been warned of mines after a U.S. warship spotted an Iraqi freighter in a "suspicious act" near the Shah Allum shoal, about 80 miles (128 kms) northeast of the Qatar Peninsula, shipping sources here said.

The Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) issued a navigation warning to ships in the area, which is used by ships to approach oil terminals in Saudi Arabia.

According to the Lloyd's shipping casualty reporting service, MENAS issued the navigation warning after the U.S. Navy investigated the waters near the suspect Iraqi ship and found nothing.

"They have declared the area a dangerous zone," according to a Gulf shipping executive quoted in one report received here.

Yemen

Presidential Council Discusses Gulf Developments

JN1408152390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to discuss the latest developments in the region in light of the presence of foreign military forces and the continued influx of war fleets into the Arabian Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula under the pretext of the current crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Presidential Council also discussed and welcomed the recent initiative announced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as an important political step that should be dealt with and developed in order to attain—through the principles it implies—tangible and realistic solutions to the current situation in the Middle East in order to achieve permanent stability, peace, and coexistence among all peoples.

The Presidential Council also urged the Government to contact fraternal and friendly countries, the Arab League Council, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, the United Nations, and the Security Council to promote and develop that initiative and work out a comprehensive political remedy of the current situation in the region in order to save its peoples from wars, fighting, and destruction. The Presidential Council then discussed and approved a proposal to establish a higher council for economic, oil, and investment affairs.

Salih Receives Saddam Letter, Sends Reply

JN1408181890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Last night in his office, Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received brother Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, interior minister of the sisterly Republic of Iraq. The minister gave him a letter from President Saddam Husayn on regional developments against the background of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo and Iraq's initiative yesterday to bring a durable and comprehensive peace in the region. The brother chairman gave him a letter of reply to his brother President Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar al-Qamsh, minister of interior and security, and by Iraq's ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih, Ben Ali Reject Foreign Military Presence

JN1308062790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] A telephone conversation took place last night between Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. They discussed bilateral relations between the two fraternal peoples and countries and means of bolstering and developing them.

They also discussed the new developments in the Arab region, specifically, the situation in the Arabian Gulf region in light of the foreign presence, and the dangers and threats this poses to pan-Arab sovereignty and security and its negative effects on the unity of Arab stands and ranks, as well as the solidarity of the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

The two presidents also reviewed the stand of the two fraternal countries on these developments. Viewpoints were identical in affirming their rejection of any foreign military intervention by foreign powers on Arab territory.

Salih Sends 'Urgent' Message to Gorbachev

JN1208142290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, received at his office today Veniamin Popov, the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa. The president asked the ambassador to convey an urgent message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with developments in the region and relations between our country and the Soviet Union.

'Arafat Discusses 'Initiative,' Departs 14 Aug

JN1408163190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 gmt 14 Aug 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Sanaa today after a short visit to our country. 'Arafat met with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, to discuss the current accelerating developments in the Arab arena.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Palestinian president said: I discussed with brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih the explosive crisis in the Arabian Gulf, as well as efforts to reach an Arab solution in order to put out the fire, which, if it continues, will destroy everything along its way. He explained that the Palestine question will be the first loser in this conflict, which is threatening the essence of pan-Arab security and Arab existence itself—a conflict represented by the presence of the foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf region.

Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] continued: We and the Yemeni leadership and president reviewed developments in light of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent important initiative that links the Palestine question with the current events in the Arabian Gulf region. We also discussed the important, positive implications of the initiative as a starting point for solving the crisis. He also said that Israel is massing troops in southern Lebanon and on the Jordanian borders, while the Zionists are escalating the official, organized terrorist repression against the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah. He also said the Zionist enemy has put its air forces on alert and sent some of its planes to some U.S. air bases in the region, a fact which affirms that the conspiracy led by the Zionist forces against the Arab nation is not only targeted against the Palestinian question, but also against all Arabs.

At the end of his statement, the Palestinian president praised the principles and firm stance adopted by our Yemeni people, government, and leadership, in support of their brothers, the Palestinian strugglers, who are bravely confronting the Zionist plots and occupation. President Yasir 'Arafat was seen off by First Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Makki, a representative of the Presidential protocol; Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa brother Yahya Rabah; Sabra camp commander Colonel Wahid; and a number of Palestinian cadres in Sanaa.

'Text' of Saddam Peace Proposal Sent to Iran

JN1508083290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Aug 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; dated 14 August—read by announcer]

[Text] Brother citizens, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. Within the framework of confirming Iraq's desire and its persistent peace efforts, as a fruit of the direct contacts that were held between Iraq and Iran after leader President Saddam Husayn's letter to 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 21 April 1990, and in harmony with the spirit of the leader president's initiative on 12 August 1990, we read to you the text of the letter leader President Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which includes a comprehensive solution to the relations between Iraq and Iran:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After relying on God Almighty, with the objective of removing all obstacles before paving the way for brotherly relations with all Muslims, including those who opt for brotherly relations with Muslims of our neighbor Iran; to pave the way for a serious interaction with all the believers to confront the evildoers who seek to inflict evil on Muslims and the Arab nation; for the sake of distancing Iraq and Iran from the blackmail and games of the evil international forces and their satellites in the region; in harmony with the spirit of our initiative that we announced on 12 August 1990, through which we meant to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region; so as not to give anyone an excuse not to interact and continue to harbor suspicions and apprehensions; so as not to keep any of Iraq's potentials disrupted outside the field of the great battle, and to mobilize these potentials in the direction of the objectives whose correctness honest Muslims and Arabs are unanimous; so as to avoid the mixing of trenches and to cast away suspicions and apprehensions so that the righteous will find their way to normal relations between Iraq and Iran; and as a fruit of our direct dialogue which has continued since our letter to you on 21 April 1990 and until your last letter to us on 8 August 1990; and as a final and clear solution that leaves no excuse for anyone, we have decided the following:

First, to approve your proposal as contained in your reply letter dated 8 August 1990, which our representative in Geneva Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti received from your representative (Cyrus Naseri), considering the 1975 agreement closely connected with the principles cited in our letter dated 30 July 1990, especially regarding the exchange of prisoners and Paragraphs 6 and 7 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Second, on the basis of the first paragraph of this letter and in our letter to you of 30 July 1990, we are ready to send a delegation to you in Tehran, or to receive your delegation in Baghdad, to prepare the agreements and sign them on the level to be agreed.

Third, as a goodwill gesture, our withdrawal will begin as of Friday, 17 August 1990, and we will withdraw our forces stationed on the border opposite you, leaving only a symbolic force together with border guards and police to carry out daily duties under normal circumstances.

Fourth, all prisoners of war held in Iraq and Iran should be exchanged immediately and comprehensively across land borders and via Khanaqin and Qasr-e-Shirin and other border points to be agreed upon. We will start this process as of Friday, 17 August 1990.

O President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with our decision, everything has become clear, and everything you wanted and on which you have been concentrating has been achieved. It remains to exchange documents so that together we can start a new life of cooperation under the canopy of Islam's principles, respect each other's rights, and keep away those who are fishing in murky waters off our coasts. We also may cooperate to keep the Gulf a lake of peace and safety free of foreign fleets and foreign forces that are lying in wait for us, and also to cooperate in other walks of life. God is great, and praised be God.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, on 23 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 14 August 1990.

Proposal Distributed at UN Geneva Heaquarters

JN1508163390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Geneva, 15 Aug (INA)—The permanent Iraqi mission at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva has distributed the text of the initiative of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, which called for ending all forms of occupation in the Arab region.

The Iraqi mission handed the text of the initiative in both English and French to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva, to all Arab and foreign diplomatic missions at the UN Geneva headquarters, and also to all media and press organizations in Geneva.

In a related development, the permanent Iraqi mission in Geneva issued two press statements. The first statement dealt with the historical, geographic, and legal foundations for the rapid merger unity between Iraq and Kuwait. As for the second statement, it addressed the most important developments witnessed in the region beginning with the revolt of the free men of Kuwait on 2 August, the merger unity between Iraq and Kuwait, the landing of U.S. troops in Najd and al-Hijaz, and ending with the outcome of the Cairo meeting which decided to form an Arab force to serve as a cover for an imminent U.S. aggression against the Arab nation through attacking Iraq, the symbol of the nation.

Tehran Radio Reports Iraqi Withdrawal Decision

LD1508081190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0743 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Unscheduled announcement interrupting "Revolution Guard" program]

[Text] Dear listeners! Before we continue the Guards Program, we draw your attention to a news item that we just received: At 1030 Tehran time, Baghdad Radio broadcast the following statement: On the basis of a letter received from Iran on 8 August at a meeting between Mr. Barzan Tikriti and Sirus Naseri, Iraq has declared its agreement with the contents of this letter. Iraq announced its agreement with the Algerian Treaty of 1975. On the basis of this agreement, its forces will withdraw to the international [internationally recognized] borders on 17 August, corresponding to the 26 Mordad, and all POW's will be [exchanged] on the same day via the Qasr-e Shirin and Khanaqin borders, or any other point that Iran chooses. Iraq also announced its readiness to dispatch a delegation to Iran or accept a delegation from Tehran to Baghdad.

Foreigners' Status Linked to Nations' Stances

JN1408164090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] In Paris, Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi told AFP today that the condition of the foreign nationals in Iraq is part of a whole and is connected with their countries' stands toward the dispute.

The ambassador said: We hope that the states that are concerned about the fate of their subjects will do something to pacify the situation and prevent a conflagration.

The ambassador noted that talk seems to be confined only to foreign nationals and not millions of Iraqis, who are also human beings.

British Officers Reportedly Held in Baghdad Hotel

NC1408130790 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 14 (AFP)—A British national, who arrived from Iraq on August 8, said the Iraqi troops moved 36 British military experts from Kuwait, put them in a hotel at the Iraqi southern port city of al-Basrah before sending them to Baghdad.

"I met 36 British officers at the Sheraton hotel in al-Basrah and one of them, a captain, told me to inform the British Embassy in Baghdad about their arrival in the country," said Richard Hardwick Matthew, 21, a law student from Cambridge Univesity.

He said that the captain told him they were somehow being held "prisoners" at the Sheraton, adding that the hotel was "hardly a bad place to be."

Mr. Matthew, who was on vacation in Iraq, was one of 24 British nationals who arrived in Jordan in the aftermath of the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He said the Iraqi soldiers were "quite friendly" with foreigners and that he was never harassed on his way towards Jordanian territory.

Mr. Matthew, who will be leaving here on August 23 to go to Ankara, said he once joined a group of 20 Iraqi soldiers for a swim and that one of them gave him his military cap as a souvenir.

The "only" unpleasant incident, he said, occured on the border line with Jordan when young Iraqi soldiers fired shots in the air to mark the anniversary of the August 8, 1988, ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

"It was a bit scary," he said.

Saddam Husayn Envoy Returns From Yemen 13 Aug

JN1408182290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Mr. Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, interior minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, returned to Baghdad today.

During his visit to Yemen, President Saddam Husayn's envoy delivered a message dealing with current Arab conditions from his excellency to his brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Opposition Leader Comments on Saddam Husayn

PM1408154990 London ITV Television Network in English 18090 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Interview with Sa'id Jabr, leader of the Ummah Party, in English by correspondent Sheena McDonald in London 11 August during "The World This Week" program—live]

[Text] [McDonald] So with no hope of a compromise and increased pressure on Iraq to back down, what is Saddam Husayn likely to do next? We're joined by Sa'd Jabr, leader of the new Ummah—that's National Party—a party founded in 1982 by Iraqi nationals opposed to Saddam Husayn's regime. We just heard that Egyptian President Mubarak says no hope of a peaceful settlement. Do you agree, what will Saddam Husayn do?

[Jabr] Well, Saddam Husayn now has two or three or maybe four options, none of them are very good for Iraq or for the area in the Middle East. The number one option, which may be slipping away from him, is the taking over of the oil wells in Eastern Saudi Arabia.

[McDonald] Perhaps we should have a look at that one first, because that has long been seen, or since this started, has been seen as a threat, and yet there is now an

increasingly large—as we just heard from the news—multinational force gathering to defend Saudi Arabia: Will that not put him off?

[Jabr] Well if it is the last hope or the last... means by which he can achieve his objectives, he may go ahead and do it. But he wants those oil wells used as a hostage—he will mine them, and then he will tell the world: Come on, you want to fight me? I'll blow the whole thing up and...

[McDonald interrupts] But he will surely, he will surely be... forgive me interrupting, he will surely be repulsed before he gets to that stage.

[Jabr] Well that remains to be seen. It's up to his judgment of the logistics etcetera, but I think that's why I said it's slipping away from... or slipped away from him. If he had done that a week ago he might have got away with it. But if he's desperate, he might just go ahead and do it.

[McDonald] So of the other options, which do you think is most likely?

[Jabr] Well, that remains... still remains I think his number one option. The second one is to foment all kinds of demonstrations maybe, he will go and explode some buildings and he has... all over the world and some of the paid men—like he has Carlos in Iraq, and Abu Nidal's men, etcetera—and some of the PLO groups are cooperating with him.

[McDonald] In a way he's already done that, because as we've seen there is now division amongst the Arab states—some are behind him, most are against him. He's also apparently trying to incite division between if you like the ruled and the rulers. Is there anything he could do now, given that he said this is his aim, to achieve Arab unity?

[Jabr] Well no, because he started out on the wrong premise: Attacking a small, weak neighbor who has done nothing but good for him. The Arabs can see what he's doing—he didn't attack, let's say their enemy Israel or some, like he did Iran with some justification—this is the weakest and most benevolent Arab state so he gobbled it up...

[McDonald interrupts] You mentioned Israel. Does he still threaten Israel?

[Jabr] Well, I would say knowing how he operates and his mentality: If he thinks he has no other option, he's not going to surrender. He may go out in a blaze of glory by throwing all he has at Israel and that again is what the Iraqis will receive: The end result of it with the Israelis throwing what they have at the Iraqis.

Baghdad Radio Overpowers Kuwaiti Transmission

LD1408113190 Dubayy Domestic Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti resistance radio, operating intermittently since Iraq's invasion 12 days ago, fell silent today after Radio Baghdad started transmissions on the same frequency. Yesterday both stations could be heard on the same medium wave frequency.

In its last transmission the Kuwaiti radio urged all Kuwaitis to resist and rally behind the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Law Issued on Execution of Thieves in Kuwait

JN1408164490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 90

["Text" of Decision No. 322 issued by the Revolution Command Council, RCC, on 14 August 1990]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, every person who commits the crime of theft within the administrative borders of the cities of Kuwait, al-Nida', and al-Jahra' shall be punished by execution.

Second, a special court shall be set up specializing in assessing the crime stipulated in paragraph one above. A special committee set up for this purpose shall be entrusted with the inquiry.

Second [as heard], the special court and the inquiry committee are directly related to the presidency.

Third, the provisions of the amended penal law No. 23/1971 are applicable to the measures of inquiry and judgment without contradicting the provisions of this law.

Fourth, the decisions taken by the court formed in accordance with this law shall be final.

Fifth, the head and members of the court and the inquiry committee shall be assigned by a decree from the Presidential Office.

Sixth, this law shall be applicable on the day it is issued and the sides concerned shall assume the duty of its implementation. [Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Kuwaitis Hold 'Massive Rally' To Support Iraq

JN1508105790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2219 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (INA)—The masses of Hawalli staged a massive rally today to declare their absolute support for the return of the branch to the root—great Iraq—under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The masses expressed their constant readiness to defend Iraq and the Arab nation against U.S. imperialist schemes and denounced the actions of Fahd, the traitor of the two holy mosques, who turned Saudi territory, the land of revelation, into an open ground for the U.S., Western, and Zionist forces to desecrate under flimsy and baseless excuses.

The masses raised placards expressing the determination and readiness of Iraqis and all the Arab nation's masses to defend the homeland against the aggressors.

Health Departments Set Up in Kuwaiti Cities

JN1208140490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—The Health Ministry has annouced that three health departments have been set up in the city of Kuwait, al-Jahrah, and the City of al-Nida' ["the call," referring to city of al-Ahmadi].

These departments will regulate and offer preventive and therapeutic services to our citizens in Kuwait.

Bank Says Kuwaiti Dinar Equal to Iraqi Dinar

JN1308153290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—An official spokesman at the Central Bank of Iraq has stated that in implementation of the economic committee's decision during its 13 August meeting, instructions were issued to all banks licensed to make foreign transfers to deal with the Kuwaiti dinar on an equal basis with the Iraqi dinar. It is to be used to pay for all dealings conducted inside the Republic of Iraq, and all individuals, companies, institutions, and departments must accept the Kuwaiti dinar in all dealings on an equal par with the Iraqi dinar on the basis that one Kuwaiti dinar equals one Iraqi dinar.

Fahd Involved in 'Big U.S.-Zionist Conspiracy'

JN1508110290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that all Arabs and Muslims realize that [King] Fahd is involved in a big U.S.-Zionist conspiracy aimed at carrying out an aggression against Iraq, and that he himself is deluded if he believes that the American fleets and squadrons can protect him from the Arab nation's wrath.

In an editorial today, the paper says: What kind of ordeal has Fahd brought to his "kingdom"? How could he himself believe that Iraq would invade it, especially since he knows better than anyone else what is between the two countries? In fact, he himself signed a nonaggression treaty with Iraq last year. [passage omitted]

The paper adds: It is one of two things. Either disease and old age now prevent Fahd from seeing things as they really are, and consequently he is unable to make sound decisions; or he is, which is a fact, a U.S. agent who tries to find his masters a pretext to carry out an aggression against Iraq, which represents the nation's conscience and the defender of its usurped rights. In order to achieve this objective, he found nothing better than claiming that Iraq wants to invade "Saudi Arabia."

The paper stresses that this lie cannot deceive anyone, especially since the sons of al-Hijaz, Najd, and al-Ahsa' love Iraq and its people and trust them and their gallantry and know that this Fahd is no more than a sinful libertine who filled the earth with sins and debauchery before he came to his throne through plotting and treachery. It is easy for such a treacherous libertine to lie, fabricate, and forge facts. [passage omitted]

The paper says: Fahd will be deluded again if he believes that American fleets, squadrons, and their male and female soldiers will be able to protect him from the wrath of the Arab nation. Foreigners cannot protect a ruler who is not protected by his people. This ruler's people will one day avenge their lost dignity and wrest their rights from the eyes of their usurper. Peoples' history is full of examples, and there are thousands like "Juhayman al-'Utaybi" [leader of the rebellion in the holy mosque of Mecca in 1980] in the land of Najd and al-Hijaz.

Paper Assails Saudi Acceptance of Foreign Help

JN1108085190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0520 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that what Saudi Arabia has done is a very grave action that essentially conflicts with the interests of the Arab nation and directly serves those of its enemies.

In an editorial today the paper adds: By doing so—requesting the intervention of foreign armies whose sole objective is committing aggression against Iraq—it has made itself a tool for and a direct partner to this aggression.

The paper says: Therefore, Saudi Arabia directly bears the responsibility for any attack on Iraq. Thus, it must bear the consequences of such an attack along with all its partners.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states: All the treasonous rulers and the servants and brokers of petrodollars—the amirs of oil and those living on the crumbs of their meals—who joined the Saudi-American convoy are not to be exempted from the responsibility of aggression.

The paper explains: If the Saudi rulers think that the foreign forces of invasion are sufficient to attack Iraq and to implement the plot of Americanizing and Zionizing the Arab homeland, they must be under a great illusion. The paper says that they have placed themselves in a confrontation with the entire Arab nation from the

Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf, and that they will see how the nation responds to the call of its pan-Arab hero Saddam Husayn to scorch the Arab land under the feet of the invaders and to deal fatal blows to their interests wherever they are to make them all feel remorseful when it is too late. In fact, they will pour down curses on Sabah and his sons and grandsons as long as they live. Moreover, they will bring upon themselves what all traitors and agents have brought upon themselves throughout history.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that what Saudi Arabia has done is similar to what the ruler of Akko did during the crusaders' invasion of the Arab land. The rulers of Saudi Arabia have opened the gates of the land of the two holy mosques to the new crusaders as did the ruler of Akko when he opened the gates of Akko to the old crusaders. In fact, they did something like what Abu-Ra'al [a traitor in ancient Arab history] did before them. Thus they harmed Islam, the Ka'bah of Muslims, the Arab prophet, the cradle of his message, and his holy tomb. They defied Almighty God as well as the sentiments of the Arabs and Muslims all over the globe.

The paper stresses that the Saudi rulers' "shrewdness" has failed them this time because they did not do well when they chose the rival, place or date of the battle, its justifications, or the allies involved.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: What arouses anger and indignation most in the current Arab situation is the stance of Saudi Arabia and its rulers. Saudi Arabia never made a move for any Arab or Saudi issue like the feverish and panting move it is now embarking on to turn the land of Hejaz, Najd, al-Hasa, and al-Qatif into a base for military aggression against Iraq, whose men protected among other things the land of Saudi Arabia and its wealth.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that some flattering pedants described the cowardly and collaborationist Saudi policy as calm, balanced, and wise. It is now bereft of calm, balance, and wisdom; it has lost all ability to maneuver and to change color. The Saudi policy has come out from the corridors and become blatant and public. It is turning the land of the two holy mosques into a U.S. base crowded with new crusaders from all nations and colors, but against whom? It is against Iraq, the protector of the Arabs and the defender of their honor, dignity, and resources now and in the future. Can we say Saudi Arabia fears Iraq? But why does it fear Iraq while Iraq is the one that protected them and made them safe from fear?

AL-JUMHURIYAH asks: Why is it scared while a nonaggression treaty exists between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, a treaty whose contents Iraq has reiterated it respects and adheres to as soon as the U.S. and Zionist media began to talk about Saudi Arabia's fears?

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Why is it frightened while knowing full well that what is between Saudi Arabia and Iraq is different from what is between Iraq and Kuwait, that Iraq has no claims to lands within Saudi borders, and that Iraq was the initiator and the flexible party in deciding to suspend a border issue?

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Finally, why is Saudi Arabia frightened while Iraq clearly announced through the official spokesman of the Revolution Command Council that it neither targets Saudi Arabia nor others and that what happened with Kuwait is different from the other cases because Kuwait was part of Iraq and there were special historical relations between them the likes of which do not exist with the other countries?

The Iraqi newspaper states that Saudi Arabia is not frightened of Iraq. The Americans, their allies, their agents, and their propaganda are the ones that ordered Saudi Arabia to be afraid or to pretend to be so. Saudi Arabia obeyed and did so because it has planned something against Iraq and agreed to this plan with the Americans. This is aggression and cannot be explained in any other way.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Saudi Arabia wants to participate in an aggression against Iraq. Has it unilaterally decided to revoke the nonaggression treaty signed between the two parties? And has it thought of all this and of the consequences before embarking on this? Is this the rational wisdom boasted about by their rulers and the flattering pedants who live on those rulers' crumbs?

Commentary Says U.S. Only Defends Own Interests

LD1208211290 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American troops' arrival in Saudi Arabia has been given so much camouflage by some Arab circles. However, President George Bush was clear as he appealed in his address on 8 August for Americans to pray for those who are committed to protect and defend America's interest. So it is Bush himself who put it in a nutshell—he has nullified all arguments that the Yankees have arrived to protect some Arab state, namely Saudi Arabia, from an imminent Iraqi aggression.

This can only be viewed as a naive explanation for their presence on Arab soil. They have not come to defend anybody but American interests. Some Arabs have obviously tried to turn a blind eye to a longstanding fact, that America or any other imperial force has no permanent friends but permanent interests. Today's friends could well be tomorrow's foes. It all depends on how much you offer to America, whose list of demands is endless. Panama's Noriega can furnish a brilliant example about U.S. opportunism. It was the United States that installed Noriega, nurtured him, and involved him until it belatedly recognized he was getting out of control. All of a sudden Noriega, the ex-CIA agent, became an anathema to the Bush administration. He has a lot in store that could be used to tarnish the U.S. image as the world's protector of freedom and human rights. He ought to be

gagged before it was too late and there was the American invasion of Panama, which has passed as something casual in today's political record.

Why should the United States make so much fuss about the al-Sabah family to the extent of pushing the entire Middle East region to the brink of a catastrophe that would leave nobody intact? Why should President Bush risk his entire political career with such a move, that could very well end up in an ignominous defeat? American politics is too fragile to tolerate any such setback. The Vietnam war is still sending such bad odor. The American people have not yet forgiven President Johnson's blunder, getting up to his ears in the Vietnamese quagmire.

It would be very wise of those who have linked their political career to the American military protection to remember the end of American men in Vietnam. Where is Nguyen Cao Ky, America's (?former) man in Vietnam. What has come of the head of Saigon police, who shot there and then a Vietcong fighter with the Americans calling it instant justice? He was reported to have started a saloon in America after he was lucky enough to save his skin by fleeing with the retreating Americans.

Inviting the Americans is by no means a feather in anybody's hat, for the one simple reason: America is not after anybody's interests. It is only seeking to secure its interests. Once this is done, at any cost, to hell with others.

Paper Reviews U.S. Decisions on Gulf Forces

JN1308121090 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 13, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said US warships entered the Arab Gulf in 1987 in coordination with the al-Sabah regime on the pretext of providing protection to Kuwaiti oil tankers.

But as soon as the Gulf war stopped, American officials said that the "US fleet is there to stay".

In the wake of the Gulf ceasefire in August 1988, US National Security Adviser Colin Powell said that he does not think that, given the strategic US interests in the region, American naval forces would withdraw from the Gulf region.

When Security Council Resolution 598 was issued in 1987, US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy made it clear the United States would maintain its military presence in the Gulf because of a growing possibility that the United States' reliance on Gulf oil would increase threefold in the following five years.

Last February, US Defence Department issued a document on military planning which included a number of strategic principles for American war plans for the period 1992-1997.

The document shows a shift in plans in the Middle East from defending Iran against possible Soviet invasion to another strategy that aims at protecting the Gulf oil against possible regional threats which might be supported by Soviet Union.

This document means that American forces will stay in the Gulf until 1992 at least. It also reveals the intention by the US to protect Iran from the Soviet Union despite the fact that Iran was considered an enemy of America.

US insists on staying in the Gulf and boosting its presence to protect its own interests.

Arab Gulf security is a vital element in Arab national security which is put at risk with the presence of US and other foreign forces in the Gulf.

Minister Levi Interviewed; Comments on Jordan

TA1508062890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi in Munich by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] King Husayn, who arrived in the United States last night, is playing on the side of the baddies in this crisis. Should his support for one of our worst enemies bring about a change in the permanent Israeli position that we have a firm interest in the continued stability of the Jordanian monarchy?

[Levi] We have from the start transmitted directly and indirectly Israel's desire for stability in Jordan as its security interest. We should not forget that our longest border is with Jordan. Up to now, that border has been the quietest, and I would say that the Jordanians, no less than we, have maintained the quiet and avoided any action that could destabilize the quiet. We are, of course, satisfied with King Husayn's announcement that he will not permit his kingdom to be used as a stepping stone for foreign forces to act against Israel. He understood our message, but he took contradictory actions by supporting Saddam Husayn....

[Dan, interrupting] Is the fact that King Husayn is permitting, at least at this stage, the passage of cargo through al-'Aqabah not cause for concern for Israel?

[Levi] Israel is following events with open eyes and restraint, as is widely known, but there are also lines and, if they are crossed, Israel will not wait. That is clear to all, to the Americans, here in Europe—where I stressed this issue, and the Israeli position was accepted with greater understanding than ever before, at least in recent years—and Husayn also understands it.

[Friedman] You referred to red lines, and I would like to remind you that in the early seventies, during the war of attrition along our border with Jordan, Iraqi cannons deployed on the Irbid plateau shelled, among other places, Bet She'an, the town you come from. Why should Israel's causus belli be seen as reliable today when in the seventies we did not act according to it?

[Levi] We should understand that what happened in the past will never recur. Israel will not permit either a war of attrition or even a one-time threat to its security. We are dealing with a ruler who thinks he is omnipotent and threatens Israel directly; therefore, we will take the necessary steps and react according to the threat. We hope we will not reach such a situation, because it does not serve stability and we are interested in preventing war. I believe King Husayn understands that very well. His very trip to the United States should be accepted for what it is. Somebody who wants to cooperate with Saddam Husayn does not travel to Bush.

[Friedman] Some experts have recently voiced the opinion that Husayn's throne has been destabilized to an extent previously unknown and that the end of his rule might be closer now than ever before. What is you evaluation about that?

[Levi] It is clear that we are not interested in that. We are certainly not doing anything to fulfill such a forecast. I hope that King Husayn will come back to his senses quickly and understand that he should not support such tyrants, even if it is out of fear, especially because his internal position is such as it is. The unrest in Husayn's country should not be used as an excuse for his support for Saddam Husayn. When a king, and I repeat, a king gives in to such considerations there are precedents for what could happen, such as the shah of Iran. Therefore, his trip and his appreciation for the message from Israel might quite possibly make him wise up and stand firm on the policy line which permitted Jordan to maintain stability and for him to keep his throne. Israel has no interest in the destabilization of Jordan.

[Friedman] Mr. Levi, to conclude, has the time come for the political echelon to order the distribution to the Israeli public of gas masks and defensive equipment against a gas attack?

[Levi] That issue has two aspects. First, it should be clear that the political echelon decided months ago with the General Command on the distribution of gas masks. The manner and timing is up to the General Command. It is true that these days, when such a move is made during a crisis, it might be seen as an Israeli preparation for some maneuver and could be used as an excuse for the tyrant to do something that he might otherwise not have done. There are, therefore, many considerations. But in both cases the public must know we are on guard, we are prepared, if there is need, to distribute the masks to the entire population within a very short time, a matter of hours. [passage omitted]

Source Says Jordan Becoming Iraqi 'Satellite'

TA1408195190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Report by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky]

[Text] U.S. Marines have arrived in Saudi Arabia in the past 24 hours. The message is: Not only in the air; we are preparing a response on the ground, as well.

Along with the buildup of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, there is rising concern that a confrontation is inevitable. Such a confrontation, Israeli sources believe, is liable to sweep Israel along. Today, the danger of Israeli involvement in the Gulf appears greater than ever. This is a complicated, intricate, and dangerous situation, say observers. One of the reasons is the active Jordanian involvement.

Despite this, Israel will not impose a blockade on the al-'Aqabah port hastily. This footage was taken from Elat this morning. [The 20-second video clip shows a port,

with what appears to be a freighter, seen from a distance; another frame shows what appears to be an oil tanker.] If the intent is to stop the ships, it can be done more efficiently in Bab al-Mandab, the Strait of Tiran, and the Suez Canal, by the Americans, Saudis, and Egyptians. No one believes seriously that of all forces, the Israel Navy will be the one to prevent the supply ships from arriving in al-'Aqabah, or the Iraqi oil from leaving for the Red Sea.

Israel's greatest concern is over King Husayn's moves. An Israeli source said tonight: Jordan is becoming a satellite of Iraq, and the king—a district operative of an Iraqi region. The king is conducting a public relations campaign on behalf of Saddam, at the same time inflaming a warmongering mood in Jordan. Unlike in the past—at least it looks that way—the king is not wavering: He is making clear-cut moves. He will have to do a lot of explaining to President Bush in their upcoming meeting.

The situation is warming up. From where Israel is, Saddam appears determined to pursue his line, with King Husayn following in his footsteps. From the Israeli viewpoint, the significance is that either Jordan will become involved in a confrontation vis-a-vis Israel, or it will permit the Iraqis to operate from its territory, both from land and sea.

In the studio with us is [Labor] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Good evening, sir.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Why are we so concerned with Husayn's status and condition, if he has been acting as he has in this affair?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] In my opinion, every change in the situation in Jordan has a direct bearing on Israel's security. As things look at present, the king has totally lost control over events in Jordan. I cannot recall any other period in which the king had made as many mistakes as he has in this very brief period: He has allowed demonstrations; he has allowed the opening of offices where Jordanians are recruited for Iraq. He has in fact become Jordan's [as heard] agent and propaganda minister.

[Shlonsky] Where can this lead?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] If you ask me, the king is finished, in long-range terms. He is at present in a situation of no-return.

[Shlonsky] Who will replace him?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not know. What is obvious today is that the Jordanian declaration that they will not allow foreign troops into their country is worthless, because I believe that after Saddam scores even the slightest success, he will see Jordan as his next stop. This means a direct confrontation with Iraq.

[Shlonsky] Would you advise Israel to intervene in the events in Jordan now?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We are already involved. What do you mean, intervene? We are playing the part of outsiders, but Saddam keeps reminding us that we are inside. Husayn, with his loss of control over the events in Jordan, has made us involved in the events in Jordan.

[Shlonsky] To sum up, MK Ben-Eli'ezer, what does it mean that we are involved? What steps would you expect Israel to make now, in view of Husayn's conduct in Jordan?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think Husayn should understand one thing plainly: First of all, we will not allow the main axis of al-'Aqabah-Baghdad to continue shipping supplies to Iraq. Second, he must realize that any change in Jordan's position will lead to an Israeli reaction.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

Levi Assesses Husayn's Al-'Aqabah Policy

TA1408074590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Excerpt] Israeli leaders warned yesterday that Jordan's King Husayn was in trouble because of his pro-Iraqi stance, and his regime could be brought down by forces within the country or as a result of an Iraqi move into the kingdom.

Husayn was "walking a tight-rope," Foreign Minister David Levi said at Ben-Gurion Airport before leaving for West Germany. His behaviour was "erratic and based on misleading the U.S., the West, Egypt and even Syria by taking a stand on the side of Iraq and supporting aggression."

Prime Minister Yitzaq Shamir's communications adviser Avi Pazner said, "Powerful winds are blowing in Jordan," and warned that Husayn's regime was in danger. He suggested that the strong popular support in Jordan for Iraq might have been caused by Husayn's backing of Saddam. "In the Middle East, most nations do what their leaders want," said Pazner.

According to both officials, Israel was keeping a close watch on two elements of the Iraqi crisis vis-a-vis Jordan—Iraqi troop movements in the country, and supplies to Iraq via al-'Aqabah, Jordan's outlet to the Red Sea.

The question of al-'Aqabah was not only Israel's problem, Levi said, but "concerns the United States and other countries acting against aggression."

But Israel had not discerned any unusual traffic at the port so far, Pazner said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 14 August in a report by Avner Regev and Pinhas 'Inbari, plus a

contribution by Dalya Shohori from the United States, on pages one and four, adds: "Senior political circles in Jerusalem have reported that Israel would not at this stage take action to prevent goods from being transferred to Iraq via the port of al-'Aqabah as long as the flow is weak. This is a show of understanding for Husayn's shaky predicament and in order to avoid giving Iraq an excuse to invade Jordan. These circles feel that King Husayn is deteriorating both physically and mentally. He is depressed and is totally engrossed in preserving his throne and dynasty.

["Over the past few days, Israel has transmitted to the monarch both clandestine and open messages outlining Israel's red lines and emphasizing the desire for calm along the border, the prevention of the entry of Iraqi forces into Jordan, and the hope that the king and his successors will continue to rule Jordan."]

Israel Will Not Act 'To Overthrow' King Husayn

TA1508052090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem is closely watching the passage of the Iraqi vessel containing a cargo of armored personnel carriers and light arms from Poland that is supposed to reach the entrance to the Suez Canal within 24 hours. The United States, according to its declarations, is supposed to intercept it. [passage omitted]

On Jordan, Israel has made clear in recent days that the stability of Husayn's regime is in our interest and that we will not act to overthrow him. If the king is overthrown, Israel will be exposed to Iraqi forces. The messages arriving from Husayn expressed satisfaction with the Israeli announcements and a desire to reaffirm to Israel, usually through public declarations, that he would not permit foreign forces to cross into his territory. [passage omitted]

U.S. Weapons, Jordan's Support for Iraq Viewed

TA1408112090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, reacted to the report by NBC television, according to which Israel had requested that the U.S. Administration supply it immediately with jets and helicopter gunships.

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] Within the framework of the close contacts we have with the United States in the context of strategic cooperation, we also exchange assessments of Israel's capability to cope with various emergencies or attacks. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] weapon requirements is an issue also discussed within this framework. [end recording]

Mr. Ben-Aharon also commented on the behavior of Jordan's King Husayn. Speaking on Israel's behalf, he warned King Husayn not to allow Iraq to make use of Jordanian territory in any action directed against Israel.

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] We stated that any action taken by King Husayn that would accord Iraq the use of Jordanian territory for any military purpose would constitute a most serious development that we would not be able to accept. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 14 August in a report by Sheli Yehimovich on Ben-Aharon's news conference adds that "speaking at a news conference today Ben-Aharon reacted to the declarations of support for Iraq from Arab Knesset members. He said that it was very sad that Arabs living here together with us can consider Saddam Husayn a hero. Knesset member Darawshah and his colleagues should realize that the future and well-being of the Palestinians depends on their achieving an understanding with Israel, while elements such as Iraq will not only fail to enhance the Palestinians' status and prestige, but will instead increase their suffering and troubles. Ben-Aharon also catagorically rejected estimates formed by U.S. commentators over the past few days that recent developments have had a detrimental effect on Israel's strategic standing, because it has become apparent that Israel is not the United States' only strategic bastion in the Middle East. Ben-Aharon asserted that Israel had never constituted such a bastion. Ben-Aharon said: "All the estimates that Israel constituted the only bastion were always unfounded. The actions now taken by the international community in the Persian Gulf stem from the superpowers' considerations. We are not a major, or even a secondary, player in this matter. We have our own interests, which were expressed by the prime minister, the defense minister, and the foreign minister. All the theories about a radical change in Israel's standing and role in the superpowers' strategic alignment and in the field of strategic cooperation have no basis."

[Answering questions from foreign correspondents regarding the possibility that equipment from Tunisia and Iraq may be delivered through al-'Aqabah port, Ben-Aharon reiterated that any Iraqi presence within Jordanian territory would be considered "a serious and grave development."]

Arad Meets Baker, Reaches Agreement on Crisis

TA1508112490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Israel and the United States are in agreement on their evaluations of the situation in the Persian Gulf, according to an initial report transmitted to Jerusalem by Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador in Washington, after his meeting with Secretary of State James Baker last night. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the two countries have also decided to maintain a low profile in their contacts with each other. It was also reported that Saddam Husayn's declarations on Israel are causing concern in Washington. The United States expressed

appreciation for Israel's position on Jordan as expressed by Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

U.S. To Deport Palestinian Suspected of Attack

TA1508072990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The United States will deport to Israel Mahmud al-'Abd-Ahmad [name as heard], an American of Palestinian descent suspected of responsibility for an attack on a passenger bus in the territories five years ago. The bus driver was killed and a passenger was wounded in the attack. The U.S. decision was preceded by a long legal battle.

Iraqi Allegation on Air Attacks 'Sleazy Lie'

JN0908172090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1340 GMT 9 Aug 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Iraqi President Saddam Husayn lied to his brother Arab rulers and deceived them when he told them only a few hours before his invasion that he would not invade Kuwait, even while his troops were preparing to pounce on and devour fraternal Kuwait.

Yesterday, Saddam Husayn's Iraq produced a new, glaring lie when it said that Israel is preparing to attack Iraq using aircraft carrying U.S. signs. It goes without saying that this new Iraqi lie is an exposed, flimsy, and sleazy lie, meant to show that Israel is responsible for all of Saddam's woes. At the same time, it is also an unmistakable sign that the Iraqi president is aware of the serious fix he is in. Moreover, it is a manifestation of the Iraqi president's awareness of the grossness of his mistake and of the gravity of the mistaken calculations he used when he decided to invade Kuwait. Time might prove that this mistake is graver and more serious than the bloody fix and the erroneous calculations he made when he decided to attack Khomeyni's Iran in 1980.

It is certain that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's talk of Israeli complicity, telling a new glaring lie claiming that Israel is making preparations to attack Iraq, was motivated by the feeling of the military, economic, and political noose becoming gradually tighter around his neck in the Arab and international arenas. Instead of considering and attempting to come down from his high horse, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn seems to have decided to persist and continue climbing toward the top in pursuit of a policy of brinkmanship.

At any rate, with this new and sleazy lie that was propagated yesterday, the Iraqi president is giving the impression that he is not content with the humiliation and disgrace to which he exposed his brother Arab rulers when he lied to them on the eve of his invasion of Kuwait. Right now, he has begun to show signs that he is belittling their intelligence and mocking their minds, as well the minds of all Arab peoples.

Saddam's Plan Seen as Opening for Negotiations

TA1308151990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 90 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Saddam's Proposal Opens a Crack for Diplomats and Mediators"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn's proposal to launch negotiations that would end all the territorial conflicts in the Middle East and lead to the withdrawal of occupying armies everywhere, including Israel from the territories, shows that any attempt to dissociate the Israeli-Arab conflict from the events between Iraq and Kuwait, the Arab world, and the United States is artificial. Israel will be unable to remain a mere spectator of events in the Persian Gulf, acting as if they had nothing to do with it; Israel will be drawn into the situation via a diplomatic, a political, or a military development.

Saddam's proposal indicates that he intends to gain time and to widen the conflict between him and Kuwait beyond the Persian Gulf. However, for the first time, the proposal offers a crack through which diplomats and mediators can operate. Saddam Husayn does not promise to withdraw from Kuwait, but for the first time he is willing to discuss arrangements in Kuwait—those discussions would take Iraq's historic rights into account. This may be a ploy designed to ease the increasing international and military pressure on Iraq, but it is also a possible opening for negotiations. In a war simulation held in Israel last week, the possibility that Saddam Husayn would raise the said proposal was considered.

The Americans will probably reply that the Iraqis must unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait and allow its former government to resume power, but the way of U.S. diplomacy has been always to take advantage of every conflict to suggest broader solutions. They did this during the Lebanon War, when they offered the Reagan plan, which included the Palestinian issue and Jordan in the solution. Under different conditions, they would have willingly bought the Iraqi proposal on Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon; Israeli withdrawal from the territories, including the Golan Heights; Iraqi and Iranian withdrawal from territories each of them had seized; and the opening for an arrangement in Kuwait. Even if the Americans reject the proposal at this time, they will give it a second thought, preferring it to an extensive war.

The Egyptians and the Saudis, who are not interested in an inter-Arab war or an American offensive against Iraq—which will be launched from Arab lands—will also ask Washington to give the Iraqi proposal some serious consideration.

As could be expected, the immediate Israeli response to the Iraqi proposal termed it a propaganda ploy, but if a similar proposal is forwarded tomorrow by a Western element, Israel will be unable to evade it in a similar fashion. Despite the numerous differences between the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait and the Israeli takeover of

the territories in 1967, many Western countries will be ready to exploit the suggestion to conduct simultaneous negotiations for the solution of several territorial conflicts. Israel, which maintains that it wants peace negotiations with Arab countries, will find it difficult to reject such a possibility—even if it stands only a slim chance. Israel will naturally pose various conditions and security demands, but it will find that it cannot make peace with another Arab country without reaching a parallel arrangement with the Palestinians.

Iraqi Chemical Arms Industry, German Aid Viewed

TA1308094190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi leaves for West Germany today where he intends raising the issue of West German companies and scientists helping Arab states develop chemical weapons, a diplomatic source said.

Levi is due to hold talks tomorrow with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher at Bad Reichenhann, where Genscher is vacationing.

The source said Levi wants to learn first-hand about recent European discussions on the Persian Gulf crisis and he plans to speak out against the fact that West German companies and scientists have been helping Arab countries build up their arsenals, including non-conventional arms.

Levi and Genscher will also discuss the issue of reparations payments to Israel, which has been an issue since the new East German government acknowledged its share of responsibility for the Holocaust. Israeli and German officials have not reached agreement on the sum of reparations to be paid and observers here hope the talks will lead to a framework for settlement of the issue.

The trip will be Levi's first outside the country since being appointed foreign minister. It is billed as a "get-acquainted" visit. Genscher invited Levi to West Germany before the Persian Gulf crisis broke out. He had planned to travel to West Germany after his scheduled trip to the U.S. last week, but decided to go now after the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, set for August 9, was postponed for a month.

On Wednesday, Levi will proceed to Rome for talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Levi 'Very Pleased' With Meeting

TA1408181190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Report by Bonn-based correspondent Yig'al Rom]

[Excerpt] At the completion of his talks with Foreign Minister Genscher, Foreign Minister David Levi sounded very pleased. Talking with his host, Minister Levi relayed Israel's demand for action toward discontinuing the activities of German companies in Iraq. Minister Genscher promised to take vigorous action toward that end.

The talk between the two lasted about 90 minutes—far beyond the scheduled time—and was held in a very relaxed atmosphere. Genscher, the most experienced of the world's foreign ministers, promised to strengthen personal ties with David Levi—one of the youngest incumbent foreign ministers.

On his first day as Israel's number one diplomat abroad, David Levi is still choosing his words carefully, although he feels he has successfully weathered his first test.

[Begin recording] [Levi] I found a willingness to listen, and I received a promise of support and coordination in every sphere. This is very important in that everything was directly and openly stated and clearly understood.

[Rom] As for the situation in our region, have you raised the issue of the involvement of German companies in aid to Iraq?

[Levi] I certainly have. I gave him details and very important information, and he did more than promise: He advised me that as of now, Germany will enact tougher laws that will prevent any infraction in this field. In addition, the authorities will take direct action against those that pass on these very dangerous things; that is, chemical weapons, expertise, gases, and other things. [end recording] [passage omitted]

East Jerusalem Newspapers Support Saddam

TA0908113690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] East Jerusalem newspapers this morning express unequivocal support for Iraq's president. They sharply denounce what they call U.S. aggressive moves against Iraq. In Gaza, a leaflet by the Arab Liberation Front, which supports Iraq, was disseminated.

The terrorist Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] declared in Baghdad newspapers that he would attack U.S. targets because of U.S. intervention in the Kuwaiti crisis.

'Popular' Organizations Express Support for Iraq

TA1108085190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] All the popular organizations and institutions yesterday evening called on all the Arab leaders attending the summit in Cairo to support Saddam Husayn. A published communique stated that Iraq has

always supported the Palestinians and has served as a protective eastern barrier for the Arab nation for generations.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that eight Iraqi flags were hoisted this morning in Kafr Zibad, near Tulkarm.

MAPAM Says PLO Support for Iraq 'Grave'

TA1308094390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[Text] The PLO's support of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait casts doubt on the organization's status as a potential partner in the peace process, MAPAM [United Workers Party] chairman El'azar Granot said yesterday, noting that MAPAM will think twice about participating in meetings and conventions with Palestinians unless the PLO changes its position.

The PLO's joining the "terror alliance" of the rulers of Iraq and Libya against most Arab countries and the entire international community constitutes a serious obstacle in the way of Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Granot said.

The PLO's support of Iraq is all the more grave, he said, because the PLO is indeed the Palestinians' leadership and its actions affect the Palestinian people's future. "The PLO has discredited itself and has shown it is neither wise nor responsible," he said. "I am waiting for a change in the PLO's position and I don't mean a half-tea half-coffee change, but an unequivocal change," Granot said.

MAPAM called on the Palestinians in the territories and on Israel's Arabs not to go along with the PLO's statements in support of Iraq.

West Bank Arabs Riot in Support of Saddam

TA1308192190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Demonstrations and processions in support of Saddam Husayn took place in Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that residents in Hebron rioted and threw stones, while processions were held in Janin, Ramallah, and Nabulus.

General Sees 'No Escalation' in Territories

TA1408155390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Text] The trend of support for the Iraqi moves remains unchanged in the territories. The residents have expressed it through processions, posters, and painted slogans extolling Saddam Husayn.

There has been no escalation in the area, said Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command. In his opinion, the residents' solidarity with Iraq's extreme moves will do their cause no good.

[Begin Mordekhay recording] We hear and understand that there is sympathy for Saddam Husayn's violent and oppressive moves in Kuwait. I hope the residents of Judaea and Samaria will sober up and see the significance of this extreme and drastic move of a brutal ruler. I also hope they will understand the direct and indirect economic damages that are being caused, and that will be caused, to the population of Judaea and Samaria. I believe they will sober up. [end recording]

The general explains the support as a result of economic factors: an envy of Kuwait's riches.

Leaflet No. 62 disseminated yesterday by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] called on the residents to prepare for a war against the attack of the criminal crusaders, as the U.S. moves are termed.

The general said that the support for Iraq has not resulted in a rise of violence in Judaea and Samaria, and he emphasized that the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] is in full control of the situation.

[Begin Mordekhay recording] The situation in the field has not changed. There were two isolated processions in which 20 to 30 people participated: one in Nabulus and the other—in which a handful of people took part—in Ramallah yesterday. These were dispersed within minutes. I can point to no unusual events here, and I believe that we have good control of the area. We have the capability to continue carrying out our tasks in Judaea and Samaria as required. [end recording]

The IDF continues monitoring the developments in the territories and in Jordan to preserve calm in the region.

Arabs May Be Unprotected in Chemical Attack

TA1208093090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 90 pp A1, 6

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] A chemical weapons attack on Israel will leave thousands of residents of the territories within the Green Line boundaries unprotected. Current civil defense regulations indicate distributing protective gear against a gas attack only to Israel's citizens, foreign residents in Israel, and tourists.

The regulations state that the residents of the territories will not be issued gas masks or any other protective equipment. A portion of the approximately 1.5 million Palestinians residing in the territories who will be left exposed to a toxic gas attack—if missiles with chemical warheads should fall in the territories—are workers from the territories, who would be in Israel when an early warning on a chemical attack is received and would not be issued protective gear. [passage omitted]

During the past few days, the defense establishment refused to refer to issues relating to the policy of distributing protective gear against a chemical attack. Official military sources were only willing to say that "there are enough protective measures for all citizens. If and when a decision is made to distribute them, an annoucement will be publicized and distribution will be made in an orderly manner. At this stage no such decision has been made."

Unofficial elements have explained that the distribution of protective equipment to the residents of the territories is a very sensitive issue now. If gas masks are distributed to the residents of the territories, they might use them against the tear gas used by the Army during intifadah clashes with the population. Not giving protective gear to the residents of the territories might be interpreted, on the strategic level, as holding the residents of the territories hostage—an additional means of deterrence against a nonconventional attack by an Arab country.

Concern about possible damage from a nonconventional attack on Israel has been expressed in Arab settlements within the Green Line as well. Although Israel's Arab citizens have a right to be given protective gear during an emergency, there is no civil defense setup in their settlements, there are no public shelters, and there are no warning sirens. New houses built in Arab settlements also lack shelters, in contradiction to what is required by law. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 12 August in a report on page six by Sulayman al-Shafa'i, Fayiz 'Abbas, and Mikhal Qedem adds: "Eli'ezer Tzafrir, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, has said that when it is decided to distribute gas masks to the public in Israel, they would be distributed equally to both the Jewish and the Arab sectors."]

Coal-Based Electricity Station Starts Operation

TA1308093990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Aug 90 p 6

[Report by Gailit Lipkis]

[Excerpts] The nation's electricity supply got a boost this weekend, as the first of the Rutenberg power station's two coal-fired generators went into operation.

The Ashqelon-based facility is Israel's second coal-based electricity generating station.

On its first day of operation, the unit produced 100 megawatts of electricity. Over the next few months, productivity is expected to reach 550 megawatts. The second generator unit, built to produce a similar amount of electricty, is expected to begin operating within a year. When both generators are operational, Rutenberg will be the biggest power station in the country.

Approximately $1 billion was invested in the Rutenberg power station, making it Israel's largest completed technological project, according to Israel Electric Corp. (IEC). [passage omitted]

Ever-increasing demand has pushed IEC to expand production. Electricity generation approached 20 billion kilowatt-hours in late 1989, reached 3,760 megawatt hours in 1989, and is expected to hit 3,800 megawatt hours this year.

King Phones Arab Leaders, Meets With Saddam

JN1408114490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn continued his contacts with a number of brother Arab leaders yesterday and today. He held telephone conversations with His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen; His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan; and His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

His majesty also paid a short working visit to Baghdad yesterday, where he met with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, within the context of consultations with his brother Arab leaders on the situation in the region in light of current developments.

King Husayn Receives Iraqi Envoy 14 Aug

JN1408183190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Iraqi Labor Minister Umid Midhat, envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the labor minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

[JORDAN TIMES in English on 15 August adds that in his meeting with King Husayn yesterday the Iraqi Labor Minister "was believed to have delivered to him a written message from Saddam Husayn outlining a proposal for an international conference on the entire Middle East situation."]

Husayn To Discuss Crisis Solution With Bush

JN1508064190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Amman (AL-DUSTUR/PETRA)—As part of the intensive efforts he is exerting on the Arab and international levels to contain the current crisis in the Gulf, His Majesty King Husayn left Amman yesterday afternoon for the United States to hold talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior officials in the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

Observers here consider the king's visit to Washington at the official invitation of President Bush, who interrupted his private holiday for two days in order to meet with the king, as a very important one and a major breakthrough in the contacts concerning the Gulf crisis.

With the announcement of the Husayn-Bush meeting, hopes have immediately risen regarding the outcome of this visit since his majesty carries with him the general outlines of a Jordanian-Iraqi solution, which his majesty already communicated to the leaders of Yemen, Algeria, Sudan, and Tunisia through telephone calls he had with their capitals yesterday.

His majesty informed the Arab leaders of the Iraqi viewpoint on the crisis as explained to him by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during his brief visit to the Iraqi capital the night before last. His majesty also heard the Arab leaders' viewpoints on the subject.

Jordanian sources have declined to reveal the general outlines of the solution. However, they affirmed that several Arab leaders are against the internationalization of the crisis, the presence of foreign forces in the Arab region, and the ramifications of the economic boycott of Iraq which, they said, was applied erroneously. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Activity at Al-'Aqabah Port

'Moderate Increase' 13 Aug

TA1308140290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 90 p A2

[Text] A moderate increase in the number of vessels docking at the port of al-'Aqabah was noticed over the past few days. Israeli sources reported last night that five or six ships are currently anchored there. They believe that these do not include Iraqi vessels but that this was difficult to ascertain definitively.

It was reported that, contrary to the time of the Iraq-Iran war, naval activity at al-'Aqabah port is not very intense. During the Iraq-Iran war, shipments of food, fuel, and weapons were delivered to Iraq via the port of al-'Aqabah with sometimes more than 90 ships docking at the port.

Israeli sources have further reported that the Egyptian authorities, which are entitled to check every vessel entering the Straits of Tiran, have thus far refrained from doing so.

Military sources have pointed out that the port of al-'Aqabah can serve as an extremely vital bridge for the supply of fuel, food, and weapons for Iraq, but that to date no naval activity indicating such movement has been noticed.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent adds: Elat residents reported yesterday that, in their daily binocular observations of the port of al-'Aqabah, they have not spotted any tension in the area or any Iraqi ships.

Port Director on 13-14 Aug Traffic

JN1508060590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] For the past two days news agencies have been focusing on traffic at the port of al-'Aqabah. 'Awad al-Tall, director of the Ports Corporation, has made this telephone statement to us:

[Begin recording] In fact, work at al-'Aqabah port is very normal. A number of ships loaded with foodstuffs and consumer goods that arrived over the past fews days are being unloaded normally and without any delay. A number of ships are also being loaded with Jordanian exports such as phosphate, clinker, and sacked and loose cement. The situation is generally good and calm. However, traffic at the port is below average. That is all there is to say about al- 'Aqabah port. Thank you. [end recording]

Ships Await 'Orders'

JN1508063390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 1, 5

[Text] Amman—Over half a dozen vessels carrying cargo bound for Iraq and Jordan have dropped anchor outside the territorial waters of the Kingdom at the Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah awaiting further orders from their owners before approaching the port to discharge the goods, shipping sources said. But it was not immediately known whether the action was taken in line with the international sanctions imposed against Baghdad for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait since the possibility remained open that the cargo owners were demanding payment from Iraq before unloading Baghdad-bound goods, the sources added.

"None of the vessels is communicating with the port authorities," according to a source at a shipping company office in al-'Aqabah. The vessels, some of them European and others Greek and flying different flags, "cut all radio contact with the port after informing the authorities of their (geographic) location," said the source, speaking to the Jordan Times over the phone on condition of anonymity.

Several other sources confirmed the account, and one of them said "the accumulation of ships has occurred over the past week, two or three days after the (U.N. Security Council) santions vote."

None of the sources could provide any detail of the nature of the goods aboard the vessels on anchorage and which was going where.

Port officials meanwhile denied reports that the Jordanian officials had used "force" to unload wheat and sugar bound for Iraq from a Greek-owned Cypriot-flag ship. "There is no truth whatsoever to the reports," said a senior official at the Ports Corporation. "There were some problems related to payment for the cargo, and they have been sorted out," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

According to some other sources, one of [words indistinct] 18,000-tonne bulk carrier, Amerved, which arrived in Jordanian territorial waters early August. The sources said the ship dropped anchor and after informing the port authorities of its location "cut all communications with shore." Subsequently, Iraqi officials sought Jordanian help, and the port authority sent an electronic technician aboard the ship to check the communication equipment, the sources said. "It was found that there was a fault in the communications which the technician fixed," said one source. "Security personnel were posted aboard the Amerved, and the captain was asked to approach the ship, apparently after it emerged that the communications problem could have been deliberate."

"The vessel was towed in (which is a normal practice) but the captain refused to unload, arguing that he needed orders from the owners in Greece. In the next two days, a representative of the owners flew down to al-'Aqabah and sorted things out, but only about 1,000 tonnes of 15,400 tonnes were discharged."

The problem, according to the source as well as port officials, was related to payment for the cargo. [Words indistinct] berthed some 10 kilometres on the shoreline from al-'Aqabah and no loading activities were reported Tuesday.

A similar problem was also reported with Tanga, an 80,000-tonne bulk carrier berthed at al-Aqabah since 1984—at the height of the Iran-Iraq war—taking in grain from incoming freighters and discharging it to trucks bound for Iraq. The sources said a dispute arose between the ship's owners and the Iraqis over charter payments, and the captain of the ship, berthed at the main port at al-'Aqabah stopped all loading and unloading operations, last week, shortly after the Security Council voted sanctions against Iraq.

The problem was settled through intervention by Jordanian authorities and the ship resumed loading and unloading operations three days later, the sources said.

"As of this morning, unloading operations of grain from the ship are normal," an official said. It was not immediately known whether any agreement was reached between the ship's owners and the Iraqi government.

Shipping officials said there was no definite indication whether the vessels riding at anchor outside Jordan's territorial waters were holding back because of the international sanctions on Iraq or awaiting payment guarantees. "Most likely, payment seems to be the answer since it has been nine days since the U.N. voted the sanctions and there was enough time for any vessel to divert its route away from al-'Aqabah if the idea was not to offload the cargo," said an official.

Egyptian authorities meanwhile discounted reports that they were blocking the passage through Suez Canal of ships destined for al-'Aqabah if it was found that they were carrying cargo bound for Iraq. An official statement issued in Cairo which has joined the American-led sanctions against Baghdad, said Egypt remained committed to the Constantinople agreement governing passage through the Suez Canal. The agreement stipulates that Egypt would not allow ships belonging to or bound for any country at a state of war with Egypt to pass through the canal. Additionally, Egypt has also been

denying nuclear-powered ships to transit through Suez citing the proximity of three major population centres along the route—Suez, Alexandria and Ismailiya. However, Cairo has bent the rules to help the United States.

Some sources reported "unusual" Egyptian naval activity at the mouth of the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, and it was not immediately known whether it was related to a possible blockade of the Gulf in a move to prevent Iraqi exports and imports.

Trucks Deliver Goods to Iraq

TA1508104390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 90 p 6

[Report by Copenhagen-based correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi, Jack Poms, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Yesterday hundreds of trucks loaded with rice, wheat, sugar, and other foodstuffs left the al-'Aqabah port and headed toward Baghdad, despite the U.S. warning to King Husayn to stop the supply to Iraq. A local ship agent reported, however, that very few ships are arriving at the port these days. Western diplomats in Amman added that ships on their way to Jordan were recalled. [passage omitted]

Journalists Barred From Port

NC1508122390 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 15 Aug 90

[By Bernard Estrade]

[Excerpt] al-'Aqabah, Jordan, Aug 15 (AFP)—Journalists were forced to watch from afar Wednesday as a ship unloaded its cargo at this Red Sea port before swiftly moving out to make way for one of three more ships waiting offshore.

Correspondents who have descended on al-'Aqabah since reports that Jordan was keeping the port open for supplies reaching Iraq were barred from entering the port complex which under normal circumstances is accessible with no problem.

The ship which unloaded was too far away to be identified.

Port officials and workers refused to answer questions about ship or cargo movements and many local people openly suspicious of Westerners made it their business to report journalists' movements to the police.

The lay-out of the port area which comprises the ancient harbour, a container port and passenger terminal, makes it impossible for journalists outside to get in close enough to identify any ships.

But on the Humaymah al-Jadidah road linking al-'Aqaba to Baghdad dozens of trucks with Iraqi licence plates could be seen, probably bound for the Iraqi-Jordanian border 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the north.

Visitors who were there on Tuesday said hundreds of other vehicles, of between 30 and 60 tonnes, were seen carrying machine tools, pipes, bags of grain and closed metal and wooden containers.

Iraq, which is largely dependent on foreign food purchases, has turned to al-'Aqaba for its imports in the hope of beating international economic sanctions imposed to punish Iraq for its August 2 invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Al-'Aqabah Port director 'Awad al-Tall later Wednesday told reporters that only food supplies, including milk, were being unloaded here for Iraq and that no export of Iraqi oil through the port was expected.

He added that he had not received to date any instruction from the Jordanian government to implement the U.N. sanctions.

Mr. al-Tall said however that traffic at the port was "slightly inferior to what it was over the same period last year."

Twelve boats were currently at the port to load or unload while 10 to 15 others were expected. Some were late in arriving, but he could not say if this was linked to the sanctions or to the presence of U.S. warships in the Gulf region.

Mr. al-Tall also denied reports that Jordanian police had intervened to allow a Norwegian boat to unload cereals destined for Iraq.

Turks Leave Kuwait Via Amman, Recount Experience

JN1408100290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 90 p 3

[By 'Ali Masarwah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—The first group of Turks evacuated from Kuwait passed through Amman Monday after spending 11 days in Kuwait and Iraq following Baghdad's take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The group included 32 construction engineers and workers who were rounded up by the Iraqis from near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and another 19 Turkish nationals who were stranded in Kuwait following the take-over.

According to one of the Turks, the 32 were held in a military camp along with around 2,000 others of various nationalities, mostly Asians and East Europeans. The Turk, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the group's release from the camp followed intense diplomatic contacts between Ankara and Baghdad, but there was no definite indication of any impending release of the others held at the camp.

"Although sanitary conditions at the camp were quite bad, we were always treated well and never felt threatened by the Iraqis," said one engineer, whose story was confirmed by other members of the Turkish construction team.

The Turkish team, which was housed at a construction site near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, were awakened at dawn on Aug. 2 by the rumbling of military vehicles and the sound of automatic weapons fire.

Thinking that the Kuwaiti army was carrying out manoevres, the construction team was surprised to find their site surrounded by Iraqi troops by 7.30 a.m.

By Aug. 3, the Turkish team had been taken to a desert strip outside al-Basrah. "On the way out of Kuwait we saw large numbers of Iraqi forces moving into Kuwait," one engineer said.

After being held in the desert for two days, the 32-member team was brought to the military camp outside Baghdad.

Apparently, intense efforts by the Turkish government brought about the release of the construction team from the camp on Sunday, Aug. 12. Along with 19 other Turkish nationals, the engineering team headed for Amman on Monday, after being refused permission to leave to Turkey directly from Iraq.

"In spite of all the hardships we faced, we are grateful to the Iraqis for treating us as well as they did," stated a member of the team.

After a one-day stay in Amman, the Turkish construction team was expected to leave for home Monday.

Officials Deny Citizens Harassed at Saudi Border

JN1508101990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 24

[Text] Amman—As a result of the many questions raised about Jordanian citizens' travel from Amman to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a responsible source at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry told AL-RA'Y that reports on mistreatment of Jordanians leaving for Saudi Arabia are sheer rumors. He added: "No Jordanian citizen has complained to the Foreign Ministry that he was mistreated or returned to Jordanian territories."

Asked if the Foreign Ministry was informed by the Saudi Government of any new measures on the movement of Jordanian nationals to and from Saudi Arabia, the source said: "The Foreign Ministry has not been officially informed by the Saudi Government of any measures related to Jordanian nationals."

AL-RA'Y also learned that Jordanians holding residence permits were not turned back from the border points under normal circumstances and that those whose residence permits were not renewed are not entitled to enter Saudi Arabia.

An official source at the Jordanian Interior Ministry also affirmed that the Ministry neither received any complaint nor was informed of any case in which Jordanian expatriates in possession of residence permits were denied entry.

Saudi Ambassador in Amman Muhammad Fahd al-'Isa also affirmed to AL-RA'Y that the borders between Jordan and Saudi Arabia are open, that no citizen traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be turned back from the borders, and that Jordanians will be treated better than previously.

He added: "Our embassy in Amman has stressed to the Saudi Foreign Ministry that it should increase facilities to Jordanian nationals."

He also pointed out that no change has occurred in the conditions of Jordanians in Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that they are being well treated.

For its part, AL-RA'Y contacted a Jordanian woman who left Amman for Riyadh the day before yesterday together with her three children to join her husband there. The woman said that her travel had been normal and that she had faced no difficulties on her arrival in Saudi Arabia.

Ministry Contacts European Capitals on Crisis

JN1508091390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman (AL-DUSTUR)—The Foreign Ministry held intensive contacts during the past 48 hours with the ambassadors of several European countries in Amman as well as with the capitals of these countries in order to contain the Gulf crisis.

A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry told AL-DUSTUR that during these contacts Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim explained the implications and facts of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, the circumstances surrounding the resolution passed by the recent extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo, and the repercussions of this resolution on the Middle East and the peace process in the region.

Following his return from the United States, al-Qasim will visit the EC headquarters and other European capitals to persuade them to give up their extreme attitude toward the Gulf crisis and to explain the impact of the boycott of Iraq and Kuwait on their own interests in the region, which are interlocked with Arab interests, and the sensitivity of the agreements and pacts concluded between Arab and European countries which have contributed to stability and achieved big annual growth, not only between these European countries and Iraq.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the results of these contacts have been satisfactory. The Foreign Ministry has been informed of the moderate European viewpoint on the level of economic exchange with the Arab region.

Movement Urges Muslims To Disavow Saudi Rulers

JN1508102390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 12 Aug (INA)—The Democratic Islamic Arab Movement [al-harakah al-'arabiyah al-islamiyah al-dimuqratiyah] has said that Arabs and Muslims must declare their disavowal of the Saudi rulers, who have paved the way for the forces of tyranny and aggression to control the Holy Ka'bah and the tomb of the prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him.

In a statement, the movement demanded the formation of an Islamic Arab popular army to protect the tomb of the prophet and the Holy Ka'bah in Medina and Mecca after the rulers there had betrayed their trust.

In its statement, the movement also called upon Arab and Islamic nations to stand by Iraq, which is facing a new crusade against Arab heritage and Islamic holy places.

On the same subject, the movement said that enlisting the help of forces from Washington and Tel Aviv, which are known for their old hostility to Arabism and Islam is a great insult to this nation and a direct threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Arab and Islamic countries.

In a political statement issued today, the movement said that depicting fraternal Iraq as a real danger to its fraternal Arab states is a mean attempt to divert the conflict in the region from its true course, such as saying that the Zionist entity is necessary to confront this danger. Because Iraq has been and will continue to be the arch enemy of this entity.

The movement called upon Arabs and Muslims to assume their religious and pan-Arab responsibilities and to form Islamic Arab forces to stand by Iraq and to prevent by all means and capabilities any U.S. aggression on Arab territory and Islamic holy places.

The movement announced that it is volunteering to fight for God, the homeland, and the nation, until martyrdom or victory, and so that no foreign general will shake the tomb of the prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, in al-Madinah, like the general who shook the tomb of the victorious commander Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi in Damascus and said: We are back. The crusades are not over yet.

The movement concluded its statement by calling for more Arab and Islamic solidarity on the path of victory and saying that the hour for Jihad and action has come.

Government Drafts Memo on Sanctions Results

JN1408062990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (AL-DUSTUR)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Jordan is studying the preparation of a memo concerning the negative results on the national economy if the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Iraq are implemented. He added that the memo is still being drafted.

Al-Qasim told AL-DUSTUR that once prepared the memo will be sent to the chairman of the Security Council and the secretary general of the United Nations.

Deputies, Parties Issue Statements on Crisis

JN1408100490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A group of 21 Parliament members have appealed to the Arab countries which voiced their condemnation of the presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia to concert and intensify their efforts and bring defeat to the fleets of the invading powers.

The deputies, in a statement issued Monday, paid tribute to the nine Arab states which adopted the anti-colonial stand during the Arab summit meeting held in Cairo and urged the House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar to urge these nine countries to take further steps to strengthen their position and coordinate their stands vis-a-vis the presence of foreign military forces in Arab lands, and water.

"We believe that Arab wrath can shake and defeat the invaders, end their onslaught and evict them from our holy lands," said the statement.

It called on the House speaker to address the numerous numbers of the media found in Jordan at present and explain the Arab stand vis-a-vis the foreign forces and Jordan's policy.

The statement was signed by members of Parliament's National Bloc which groups: Samir Qa'war, Sa'd Surur, Faysal al-Jazi 'Isa al- Rimuni, Jamal Khurayshah, Salamah al-Ghuwayri, Muhammad Dardur, Sultan al-'Adwan, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Atallah al-Shahan, Muhammad Abu-'Alim, Nawwaf al-Khawalidah, Nadir al-Zuhayrat, Nayif al-Hadid, Hisham al-Sharari, Ziyad al-Shuwaykh, Tahir al-Masri, Jamal Addad, 'Abdallah Zurayqat, Ahmad 'Innab and Nayif Abu-Tayih.

In the meantime the Jordanian chapter of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party described the Cairo summit resolutions as serving as a tool in creating a dangerous situation and in fragmenting the Arab World.

These resolutions, it said in a statement, have rendered the Arab Nation subject to imperialist tutelage and Zionist oppression.

"American-Zionist forces' invasion of Arab holy lands constitutes a flagrant provocation for the Islamic Nation and the Arab summit's decision to send Arab military forces to Saudi Arabia to serve under American-Zionist command aims at destroying the Arab strength represented by Iraq and should be condemned as capital treason against the nation," the statement added.

The statement said that the situation in the Gulf region was dangerous and could explode any moment. It blamed the United States and its allies and Arab agents for the situation and said they bore responsibility for any consequences.

The statement noted that the United States secured the support of the U.N. Security Council, several Arab states and socialist countries including the Soviet Union before embarking on its aggression.

It said: "backed by Israel and its Arab agents the United States is now seeking to tighten its siege on Iraq, launching a psychological warfare on this Arab country and tempting a number of Arab regimes to gang up with the imperialist forces to confront Iraq.

Parliament member Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi issued a statement on behalf of his group in Parliament, the Nationalist Jordanian Movement, urging the Arab masses to launch war on imperialist Zionist interests, destroy their interests and their agents in the Arab countries. "The movement calls on the Arab masses to rise up against the invaders and wage a holy war against the invading foreign forces; it appeals to all liberation movements in the Arab and Islamic worlds to organise protest marches for a whole week starting August 17, 1990," the statement said.

The statement urged all Muslims to dedicate the coming Friday's prayers and sermons and the Christians' Sunday's prayers to encouraging the masses to wage a revolution against the U.S.-Israeli alliance and their agents.

The Unionist Democratic Bloc said in a statement distributed in Amman that the American-led invasion of Arab land had gone beyond the framework of international legitimacy. The statement urged Arab masses to mobilise their efforts and end differences in their joint struggle against the foreign invaders.

It also urged Arab governments to advise the Saudi government to change its policy in order not to lose credibility in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Two other blocs: The Islamic Arab Nationalist Bloc and the Tali'a Arab Movement, in statements issued here, called for the overthrow of the corrupt regimes in the Arab World, striking at American-Zionist interests, mobilising Arab masses in Jordan to confront the Zionist threats.

The People's Democratic Party appealed to the Jordanian government to speed up the process of opening People's Army centres to train people in the use of arms and in civil defence operations.

"Our country is targeted by the enemy and we must be ready to defend ourselves and our soil," said the statement.

It urged the public to boycott American goods and called for the formation of people's committees to ensure that the boycott is implemented.

It urged Arab workers to boycott all American ships and planes and to refuse to offer any service to them.

The Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party issued a statement here urging all "honourable people" in the Arab World to join hands in repelling the American-Zionist onslaught and to liquidate their agents. "The current invasion of Arab land has long been prepared for and it is designed to pave the wave for the creation of the so called greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile," said the statement.

The party, which calls for unity between Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Palestine urged the Arab states which supported the American presence in Saudi Arabia to reconsider their position.

"Our masses can and will place all their potentials in the battles and bring defeat to the invaders," the statement said.

The Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP) held a press conference Monday to declare its support for the Jordanian leadership in its drive to unite Arab ranks, to contain the Gulf issue and prevent it from becoming internationalised.

"The party is gratified with the official Jordanian stand that condemned American troops' presence on Arab soil and with the ongoing coordination between the executive and legislative authorities in dealing with this crisis," said the Party's Secretary-General 'Ali 'Amir and his deputy Hani Hurani.

"The JPDP fully supports Iraq in the face of the imperialist American-Israeli aggression and supports the Iraqi initiative to end the conflict," they said.

Hurani and 'Amir called for the mobilisation of the Jordanian people to help repel Israel's aggression and fend off American blackmail and pressure on the Arab Nation.

The Jordanian Social Workers Society in a statement issued Monday condemned the American intervention in Arab affairs. The society voiced complete solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Four Belgian Hostages To Be Released 'This Week'

NC1408093390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] According to press reports in Lebanon today, the four Belgian hostages who have been held by the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group for three years will be released this week. The release comes in the wake of a final agreement reached between the group and the Belgian Government.

According to the reports, the agreement provides for the release of the four hostages in return for the release of Sayyid Nasir, a Palestinian sentenced to life imprisonment in a Belgian prison in 1980 for bombing a synagogue.

Fourteen Westerners are still held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

'Prominent' Sources Cite 15 Aug Release

NC1408130690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-LIWA' has cited what it called prominent Western diplomatic sources as saying that the contacts between the Belgian authorities and Fatah-The Revolutionary Council have led to a final agreement between the two parties to release four Belgian hostages from the Houtekins family who have been held by the movement for three years. This will be in exchange for the release of Palestinian Sa'id Nasir, who has been in prison in Belgium for 10 years for throwing a bomb at a Jewish synagogue in a Belgian city.

The sources fixed 15 August as the date for the release, provided the four Belgians are released before Nasir is freed.

Hizballah Warns Against Executing Bombing Suspects

NC1008081690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Concerning the crime the Birri gangs are planning against a number of mujahidin whom the gangs have detained and accused of bombings and other charges, Hizballah issued a statement yesterday which says:

Hizballah has received disturbing reports that the Amal gangs are planning to liquidate six innocent brothers on the pretext that they were tried on the false charges that have been brought against them.

We hereby state firmly and clearly that the detainees in question are innocent of all these false accusations. Among these detainees are people to whose valor the hills and slopes of the south bear testimony. Making charges against them is a vicious crime to be added to the other vicious crimes that the Birri gangs are perpetrating against our people to defame them.

The statement adds: We strongly and firmly warn against harming these innocent detainees. Any harm done to them will be seen as an attack that violates all values, principles, and limits. The response to such a crime will likewise by bound by no principles or limits. The perpetrators of such a crime will be mercilessly punished. Nothing will deter such punishment.

The Hizballah statement concludes by saying: We call on all parties that consider themselves concerned with this issue to act promptly to prevent this crime, for the perpetration of this crime will be an unspeakable disaster and will be met with the vengeance of God and the mujahidin.

JANA Reports Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Sidon

LD1308093290 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Sidon, Hanibal [Aug] 13, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Thousands of Lebanese nationals went out in massive popular demonstrations in protest against American military presence in the Arab Gulf and Arabian peninsula.

Reports said that the demonstrators, who were carrying pictures of the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, marched the main streets of the city of Sidon chanting slogans against the American Atlantic military intervention in the Arab region.

PSP Assails U.S.-Led 'Imperialist Invasion'

NC0908202590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] The Foreign Relations Department of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has addressed an appeal to Socialist Internationl Chairman Willy Brandt, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization Chairman Murad Ghalib, Islamic Conference Organization Chairman Hamid al-Ghabid, and the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

The appeal says: Under the cover of certain exposed slogans, our Arab region is encountering the first signs of a new imperialist invasion led by the United States and its allies. This invasion is using, or rather exceeding, the powers stipulated by the United Nations resolution.

In the meantime, we find that Israel's occupation of Palestine, its deportation of the Palestinians, its occupation of other neighboring Arab territories, and its daily violation of the basic rights of man and international charters has not moved the conscience of these invaders. On the contrary, Israel's practices have always gained U.S. support and its constant veto over UN resolutions which support the Arab right and opposes the Israeli occupation.

Paper Reveals Cabinet Measures Against 'Awn

NC0908171190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-DIYAR has revealed some of the measures against General Michel 'Awn approved by

the cabinet during its session yesterday but not made public. These measures include:

1. Applying firmer controls to ensure that no supplies of fuel reach the al-Matn areas;
2. Depriving banks of liquidity;
3. Banning the supply of iron products;
4. Notifying the military men living in al-Matn that the government is ready to provide them with housing and other facilities for them and their families if they join General Emile Lahhud and move to the areas under the legitimate government's control;
5. Stopping the movement of officers between the two areas [not further specified]; and
6. Preventing Army officers from traveling without the permission of the defense minister and preventing members of the internal security forces from traveling without the permission of the interior minister.

Statement Condemns Amal Propaganda Campaign

LD0908185790 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 9, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Embassy here today condemned the propaganda campaign conducted by certain elements of Lebanon's Amal Movement against Iranian officials. A strongly worded statement released by the embassy denounced the stands of some prominent Amal figures who claim to be followers of Imam Musa Sadr and style themselves as "sons of (the late) Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic Revoluton."

The statement blasted the said figures, pointing out that in spite of their claims "they act to the contrary by showing hostility and indulging in pure fabrications." It said that by raising false claims and creating an atmosphere of violence, these elements have started a smear campaign against the Islamic Repubic officials, the only enemies of the illegal Zionist regime.

The statement urged the Amal figures, whom it did not name, to come to their senses and ponder over the dangerous outcome of their rash acts "before it was too late." The embassy underlined the fact that the Islamic Republic was striving for the interests of Islam and the Lebanese Muslims and has spared no efforts in unifying them.

Iran will no longer tolerate the continuance of this disturbing situation, the statement said and cautioned the mischief-makers against their naivety in believing that they could evade Zionist plots by acquiting the illegal regime of its crimes. "These people are undermining Islamic and national resistance in southern Lebanon at a time when Muslims in Lebanon are in critical need of unity," the statement concluded.

Plan To Remove 'Awn May Include Military Action

NC1208065690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Citing informed sources, the newspaper AL-HAYAH says President al-Hirawi believes that time is no longer working for Lebanon or the national reconciliation document. He has stated that this is especially true if obstacles hindering the implementation of the document persist.

The sources noted that the ministerial committee, which comprises Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur, has drawn up a plan to force General 'Awn to surrender and leave B'abda Palace and the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah the first week of September. The plan provides for a political, diplomatic, economic, and currency blockade and might be crowned with a quick military action if all other measures fail in persuading Gen. 'Awn to step down.

Regarding the position of the Lebanese Forces on any military operation against 'Awn, AL-HAYAH quotes a Lebanese Forces official as saying: If a military operation against 'Awn is necessary, then the legitimate government must carry it out, not us. We are willing to support and assist the legitimate Lebanese Government in pressing ahead with the process of salvation. The official added that ending the rebellion is a worthy cause and it is the government's responsibility to do that. He remarked: We in the Lebanese Forces are willing to discuss this issue with the legitimate government, proceeding from our unchanging stand to support it in establishing its authority. The Lebanese Forces official referred to a decision not to permit procrastination and to act decisively on the issue. He explained that the mission of the ministerial followup committee is in earnest.

Al-Huss Assassination Attempt Rumors Investigated

NC0808064090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The government has asked the public prosecution in Beirut to investigate those who have spread a rumor that an attempt has been made to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss.

Yesterday, some media intercepted a fabricated report through a radio communication between two money exchangers to the effect that an attempt was made to assassinate Prime Minister al-Huss after he left his house for the Chamber of Deputies building in al-Najmah square yesterday morning.

The government said that spreading such a rumor will affect the economy, especially speculation on the price of the dollar.

An investigation of the suspects has begun immediately.

Al-Asad Meets With Kelly, Receives Bush Message

JN1508060990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today Mr. John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs and envoy of U.S. President George Bush. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, Edward Djerejian.

During the meeting, Mr. Kelly conveyed a message from U.S. President George Bush and President al-Asad handed him a reply message. Talks centered on the situation in the region.

Vice President Khaddam To Visit Iran for Talks

LD1508104890 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is to arrive in Tehran Wednesday afternoon for exchange of views with the Iranian officials, informed sources in Tehran told IRNA.

Cabinet Meets To Review Political Situation

JN1408162290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today and undertook a political review of all aspects of the current developments—the resolutions issued by the emergency Arab summit conference held in Cairo to confront the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and the results of the Alexandria conference aimed at saving the Arab nation from the dangers of the Iraqi invasion.

During the meeting the Council of Ministers stressed Syria's position, based on a deep vision derived from Syria's sense of a comprehensive Arab responsibility. [passage omitted]

Press Says Iraq Should Prevent Gulf 'Explosion'

JN1408193290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentary today under the headline "The Wrong Calculations and the Dangers of the Gulf Crisis," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait at the beginning of this month created a very grave situation in the entire region in general and in fraternal Iraq in particular after what happened happened; after the Gulf region became adorned with fleets, multinational forces, and heavy and light weapons; and after the world began to witness the onset of a confrontation whose results are difficult to predict and whose developments are difficult to control.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria carried its views, sincerity, and farsightedness to the emergency summit in Cairo in search of an Arab solution to lift the injustice against those who were wronged and correct the decisions that led to a conflagration and the occupation of fraternal Kuwait. Because the required Iraqi response did not take place, the announced summit resolutions were necessary and Syria had to stand on the side of right regardless of circumstances.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The possible dangers will escalate if the Iraqi Government does not give priority to pan-Arab interests over national interests and if it does not adopt a sound position eschewing the acquisition of land by force and the elimination of the fraternal Kuwaiti people in such a coldblooded way.

In one of its commentaries under the headline "The Voice of Arab Reason," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is necessary to be aware of the importance of our higher pan-Arab interests and to act in harmony with these interests in accordance with common view. When some of us think of privileges, positions, and gains, and when some of us use the law of the jungle and the logic of force with his Arab brothers, then we will not have a common language of dialogue, understanding, and solidarity.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Will we realize the importance of having Iraq respond to the voice of Arab reason and act in accordance with the need to remove all the causes of all the escalating developments before it is too late, in order to foil the most dangerous intervention and the possibilities of explosion?

Papers Praise Cairo Summit, Al-Asad Efforts

JN1408185490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Dangers Facing the Nation and the Need To Confront Them," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: When Syria called for an urgent emergency summit to tackle the crisis resulting from the Iraqi forces' invasion of the State of Kuwait, the call came at a time when matters had reached a stage in which Syria could no longer be indifferent to efforts to contain the dangers that might arise from the consequences of the invasion and to spare the region, especially Iraq, dangers that could be truly fatal.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Cairo summit and resolutions sought to deprive the nation's enemies of an opportunity and to affirm the indisputable fact, which leader al-Asad has repeatedly stated, that the pan-Arab cause should be nobler and finer than all Arab disputes, especially since Arab disputes undoubtedly mean neglecting the basic struggle, the Arab-Zionist struggle, the struggle that represents a real and certain danger not only to this or that Arab country, but to the whole Arab nation. This statement has been proven true over time and events.

AL-BA'TH continues: Therefore, Syria's call to a summit with the objective of finding a way out of the crisis and future repercussions is in fact a strong and sure indication that Syria was and will always continue to work with all Arab brothers to build the correct pan-Arab stand to confront the enemies of the nation. This stems from its conviction that the enemies of the nation have tried very hard, and continue to do so, to preserve the Arab status quo in its inability to take action to confront the dangers that threaten the Arab homeland.

On the same topic TISHRIN says: Interest in the summit was great, understandably and justifiably so. What happened in the Gulf reshuffled the cards completely and revealed thick layers of ash which blurred the sight of the man on the street and scattered his thoughts. It is known that many efforts were made to convene a summit to deal with the situation in the Gulf. However, these attempts did not yield the desired results because of the fragmentation that hit the Arab stand, causing a great rift.

Nevertheless, leader al-Asad made great efforts and held wide-ranging contacts that resulted in an agreement to hold the emergency summit in Cairo. The summit's agenda consisted of one item, which was the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the attempts to formulate a united and active approach toward the problem.

TISHRIN adds: Leader al-Asad's concerted efforts manifested in his intensive contacts with Arab leaders and in his historic speech during the closed session helped push the summit into taking a clear and defined position on the situation in the Gulf. This position was outlined in the statement issued by the four-party summit in Alexandria and is a representation of available and practical means to end the situation, which portends the most dangerous outcome.

Commentary Compares Iraqi, Israeli Withdrawals

JN1408154490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, there are many falsehoods about the Gulf crisis, which is a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. There are frantic attempts to shuffle cards with a view to hiding facts and misleading Arab public opinion.

One of these falsehoods, perhaps, is the appalling attempt to link the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is a gross falsehood. After all, how can we equate Kuwait, the fraternal Arab country, with Israel, the Arab archenemy? Has Kuwait ever been in the ranks of the Arab nation's enemies? Kuwait is an active member of the Arab League, with pan-Arab obligations. It honored what it could of these obligations, but certainly it provided huge assistance to Iraq during its war with Iran. Today, Kuwait is paying for all this: its territoriess are being invaded and its independence, sovereignty, and economic institutions are being subjected to aggression.

Looking at the issue from the other side, we ask: How can the invasion of Kuwait affect Israel? Is it not the opposite that is true? Does Israel not find in the weakening of any Arab country a consolidation of its power? Is it not in Israel's interest that conflicts tear the Arab body apart? And has Arab weakness, as a result of the lack of solidarity and the intensification of differences, not been one of the substantial factors that enabled Zionism to create Israel by force in Palestine?

Certainly, when Arab countries invade each other Israel will celebrate and perpetuate its occupation of the Arab lands. Israel's strength lies in Arab fragmentation and differences. Every Arab citizen knows this crystal-clear fact. Linking withdrawal from Kuwait to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, therefore, is not only a falsehood but also a weak excuse for the continuation of the invasion. Israel's withdrawal cannot be attained by the Arab countries invading each other but by achieving Arab solidarity, mobilizing all resources and capabilities, involving all Arabs in the confrontation, shouldering the pan-Arab responsibility, and joining forces against the Zionist enemy and its expansionist schemes.

When the Arab countries invade each others' territories, they not only perpetuate the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories but also give the enemy yet another excuse to carry out new invasions. Have enemy leaders not repeatedly announced that the Gulf developments prove that the Arab-Israeli conflict is secondary to Arab conflicts? Have they not said that the Arab conflicts constitute the main factor for the region's instability and the main threat to world peace and security?

We, therefore, say that returning things in Kuwait to their situation before the invasion is the main prerequisite for the elimination of tension from Arab relations. It is the main requisite to using all efforts once again to strengthen the Arabs in the face of the Israeli enemy and to facilitate all factors that would help secure an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Zionist expansion is a result of Arab divisions and weakness, and when the Arabs show true solidarity and use this solidarity in the interest of the Arab cause, they will realize the nation's objectives. But when they violate the international principles and conventions that govern relations between nations and pursue the law of the jungle, as in the invasion of Kuwait, then they will only give Israel all justifications to prolong their occupation and launch new invasions against Arab lands, future, and existence.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Meets UN Development Official

LD1408054390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 13 (BAKHTAR)—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met (?at the Gulkhana) Palace with Ross Mountain, head of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kabul today. The Prime Ministry Press Center reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting, matters relating to the UN assistance to the RA in the socioeconomic spheres were discussed.

Ross Mountain expressed readiness of the UN (?program) for the reconstruction of [words indistinct] rendering of assistance to the war cripples, agriculture and irrigation, [words indistinct], development of rural areas, civil aviation, telecommunications and utilization of the solar energy to [word indistinct].

The prime minister, while expressing gratitude for the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar [words indistinct] the cessation of war, ensurance of peace and UN humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan demanded further economic and material assistance of the UN in the socioeconomic (?progress) in Kabul and the provinces of the RA.

Meets Businessmen, Encourages Private Sector

LD1508062590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0458 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 14, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met today in the Gulkhana [word indistinct] with a number of private entrepreneurs and [word indistinct] traders from Herat Province.

The Prime Ministry Press Center reported to BAKHTAR that while Zakim Shah, minister of commerce was also present, matters relating to the establishment of an essential goods importing company were discussed.

During the meeting a number of national [word indistinct] pledged to the prime minister to establish a company of this nature in Kabul and create its branches in the provinces of the country too.

Appreciating this beneficial gesture of the Herati traders, Khaliqar explained facilities provided in the light of the constitution directive of President Najibullah for the further activities of the private entrepreneurs and [word indistinct] of international cooperations in the private sector here.

The prime minister demanded the traders to fulfil their humanistic and Islamic undertakings for the transition from war to peace and the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Council of Ministers Meet on Economic Situation

LD1308195490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] The press office of the prime minister's office reports that the Council of Ministers met this morning. The session was chaired by esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. The participants of the session, which was held at Golkhana Hall of the prime minister's office, discussed important national topics and made decisions about proposals put forward by the ministries.

Opening the work of the session, the esteemed prime minister spoke about the current situation in the country and, referring to economic and social matters, issued instructions to relevant ministries in welcoming the mass arrival of Afghan refugees.

The meeting heard a report presented by Deputy Prime Minister Sarwar Mangal concerning the result of a visit by the Afghan delegation to take part in the joint session of the joint economic Afghan-Soviet commission and assessed it positively. In this report it is stated that the Soviet side has accepted the request of the Afghan side regarding the delivery of an additional 100,000 tons of wheat and 50,000 tons of petroleum products during 1990.

The Council of Ministers approved the matter concerning the payment of a 3-billion Afghani credit from the Central Bank for the purchase of unprocessed cotton at the '90-'91 campaign and instructed the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuff to utilize this credit for purchasing unprocessed cotton which is being delivered to ginning and pressing departments.

A major part of the session was spent on discussing amendments to the law of campaign against smuggling, the labor law of the republic of Afghanistan, the law of general conscription, and the charter of the building and mortages bank. The Council of Ministers approved amendements to the law of campaign against smuggling and the labor law of the Republic of Afghanistan and decided that these amendements will be presented to the National Assembly in accordance with article 91 of the Constitution. The council also (?approved) amendments to article 91 of the law on general conscription. And the Council of Ministers approved the introduction of changes to article four of the building and mortgages bank.

Proposed by the Ministry of Rural Development and (word indistinct] approved the disbandment of the Commission for Coordinating matters of Revival and Development of Villages in the Center and Provinces.

Constitution Council Meets on Political Party Law

LD1408053690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0501 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 13 (BAKHTAR)—Council of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] went

into session on August 12, presided over by lawyer [name indistinct], president of the Council of the Constitution.

The session ratified the conformance of the [words indistinct] political parties with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Given the political pluralism and the principle of (?neutrality) of the judges which is embodied in the amendment of the Constitution of the RA, the political parties are to be registered in accordance with the provisions of the new law of the High Council of the Supreme [words indistinct] as stated in the law on political parties that the political parties are (?expected) to observe and respect the sacred religions of Islam, nation, historical and cultural traditions of the country.

The new law on political parties will come into effect after the ratification by the president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Resolutions of Watan Party Congress Explained

LD1508054190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0130 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, 14 Aug (BAKHTAR)—Decisions and resolutions of the Second Congress of the Watan "Homeland" Party, concluded recently, were explained in a gathering held in the Hall of Kabul Municipality here on August 13.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that in the gathering, Sulayman La'eq, vice chairman of the Watan Party, representatives from the Central Council of City Councils and Kabul Province, craft unions and representatives of the craftsmen cooperatives took part.

At the outset of the gathering, Sulayman La'eq spoke in relation to the convening of the congress under the present conditions in the country, changes made in the platform and policy line of the party, cessation of war and ensurance of national unity among Afghans and ending of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

(?Besides), to explain directives of the Central Council of the Homeland Party, the politico-organizational seminar of the Kabul City Council of that was held in the Hall of the Ministry of Public Health on August 12, 1990. In the seminar, a large number of members of Homeland Party of Kabul City took part.

At the outset of the seminar, Mohammad Wali, chairman of the Kabul City Council, explained objectives of the convening of the seminar.

Later, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, chairman of the International Affairs of the Presidency spoke in relation to the volatile situation in the country and in region and responded to the questions raised by the seminar participants.

At the end, heads of organizational and control sections of the City Council of the Watan Party spoke in relation to the new directives of the Central Council of the Party and (?pinpointed subsequent) duties of the party members as well.

Military Transport Plane Crashes, 82 Killed

BK1208161290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 12 (AFP)—A military transport plane crashed near the strategic Shindand Airbase in western Afghanistan, killing all 77 passengers and its five-man crew, officials here said Sunday. The Soviet-built Anatov-12 aircraft exploded minutes after take off Friday with a full compliment of passengers, including military brass and refugees returning home from Iran, officials said.

They quoted late reports from Shindand as saying that the victims were killed instantly in the crash officially caused due to a "technical fault." However, independent aviation experts here said they could not rule out the possibility of the plane being hit by a rocket fired by mujahidin guerrillas who have known to have downed Air Force planes in the past.

A smaller Anatov-32 plane was shot down on July 15 by the rebels as the aircraft approached to land at the Khost airport in southern Paktia Province. The experts said the AN-12 which crashed Friday had come from Herat airport carrying refugees from neighbouring Iran to Shindand, 120 kilometres (72 miles) south of Herat, to pick up some senior military officers.

The ill-fated aircraft was due to go to southern Qandahar Province before coming to the capital of Kabul. "Considering the plane crashed while at a low altitude, it is possible that a rocket hit the plane. Sabotage also cannot be ruled out," one aviation expert said.

He said the AN-12 which was about 20 years old was a solidly built aircraft and if any of the four engines had failed in mid-air it was still possible for the pilot to make a safe landing. But if an engine was lost while taking off, then the aircraft would go out of control, he pointed out.

He said it was possible the plane was carrying more than the number of passengers listed in the flight manifesto because there was no strict check on the number of passengers of Afghan Air Force flights. A government official said a judge, his wife and three children were killed in the crash.

Stinger Missiles Purchased From Extremists

LD1408163990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] A set of eight Stinger surface-to-air missiles [as heard] has been recently bought from a group associated with the extremist group of Gulbuddin by organs of the

Ministry of State Security in Zabol. The price of the set has been paid to the other side in line with the decree.

Pakistan Ties, Government Dissolution Viewed

LD1308053890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 12 (BAKHTAR)—In relation to the situation in Pakistan, a BAKHTAR political observer writes:

History was repeated for several times in Pakistan. The Pak Parliament was dissolved and the elected prime minister and the Cabinet were dismissed. These developments did not surprise any body there. For, the Pakistanis in between rather short intervals of their country's "more than 4 decades" existance, have been accustomed to such changes.

Evaluating the situation after the coming into power of Benazir Bhutto, ousting of her government was quite probable. Benazir Bhutto's party which failed to obtain majority of votes in the Pak National Assembly, despite the shaky political coalitions, was forced to enter into a deal which severely damaged independence authority of her government. Since the formation of the Bhutto's government, 4 basic centres of power—presidency armed forces, powerful opposition and heirs of the Zia's policies—were existed in that country.

Influence of the unity of the opposition in Baluchistan and Punjab States and the fall of the coalitions of the Pakistan People Party "PPP" with local parties in Sindh and north west frontier areas, were imposing limits on the effective activities of the Pak Government.

The responsibility of intensification of economic crisis, communal clashes, deepening of corruption and maladministration, smuggling, drug-abuse, use of arms and terroristic activities being old phenomenas in the Pakistani society, were being put on the shoulders of Benazir Government. Such negative phemonenon were weakening Benazir's government to tackle them, which paved the ground for strengthening the positions of the opposition.

With the increase of communal clashes, and ethnic crisis in Sindh, the Pakistani Army demanded having long hand and authority which faced with Benazir's resistence on one hand and with the day by day indulgement [word as received] of Pakistan in the Kashmir crisis and increase of the possibility of direct clash with India, tendency towards centralisation of power and complete control over it, was strengthened, on [words indistinct] government, resorted to divest power from her government in last year, street demonstrations, strikes and massive anti-government propaganda campaign were (?ongoing) political pressures (?imposed) on her government.

(?Weakening) of the government encouraged the opposition to divest power again from her government last Wednesday. It was most probable that the opposition parties with the assistance of former allies of the PPP, would succeed but Gulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani president throught the use of the authorities vested by the constitution of the Zia era, dissolved the parliament and the government and fixed October 24 for holding new elections there. He appointed Ghulam Mustafa Jatoe, one of the famous former figures of the PPP and staunch rival of Benazir Bhuto's prime minister of Pakistan.

People in Pakistan are in doubt that whether the elections would be held on the determined date or not.

Some observers believe that if such elections were held the existance of the unity of the opposition at the head provincial government and will of the president would have great impact on it. They will deprive politicians of the PPP from taking part in the elections on the accusation of corruption in the last government.

President Ishaq Khan and a number of members of the Transitional government have stated that the Pak-foreign policy, particularly towards the Republic of Afghanistan, will remained unchanged, but continuation of Zia's era anti-Afghan policies intensified during Benazir's era run counter to the interests of Afghan-Pak and region peoples, despite of that we will see that Pak-policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan alongside with the positive developments in this regard both inside Afghanistan and at the world level has been hormonized and has obtained any harmony with Pak-obligations in the framework of the Geneva accords, resolution of the 44th sessions of the UN General Assembly, principles and goals of the UN charter and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] resolutions or not. [sentence as received]

People in Afghanistan believe in that political stability in Pakistan can serve for the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan issue and will develop normal relations between the two countries. Naturally, ensurance of such stability could be reached only through imposing real will and demand of the Pakistani people.

India

Article Terms Gujral's Nepal Visit 'Successful'

BK0908124990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Harish Segon "news commentary" entitled "Successful Visit to Nepal"]

[Text] During his three-day visit to Nepal, the Indian external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, was asked on more than one occasion two questions: Why did India, a trusted friend of Nepal, not come to its rescue when a movement for restoration of democracy was launched in the Himalayan kingdom; and why should India now come to offer help once things have stabilized and democracy restored in Nepal by the people? The answer of Mr. Gujral was that it should be clear once and for all that India is against interference in the internal affairs of

any country, and also India is of the firm opinion that it is for the people of any country to choose the system and the form of government they wish to have. Mr. Gujral, while addressing the Nepal Council for World Affairs, categorically stated that India is against the concept of exporting or importing democracy. After his address, Mr. Gujral was asked questions on the big brother syndrome, which appears to be a fairly widespread apprehension in Nepal. The external affairs minister made it a point to explain India's respect for the sovereignty of other states and its abhorrence to interference in the internal affairs of others.

During his series of meetings with leaders of Nepal, Mr. Gujral clarified that India upheld the system in Nepal and had no preference about which party ran it. The minister took pains to emphasize that in dealing with its neighbors, India would go more than half way. He reiterated India's commitment to the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] spirit in fostering regional cooperation. Addressing the Nepal Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Gujral dispelled doubts that with its huge size and advanced state of technology and development, India held the threat of swamping the Nepalese economy. Mr. Gujral declared that such an argument is based on erroneous assumptions and the fact is that relations between India and Nepal are of interdependence and not of dependence. He explained that India is a natural market for Nepal and the source of supply of investment and essential commodities. India is also the transit country for the passage of Nepalese exports to the outside world. At the same time, India depends heavily on Nepal for protection of its ecology. The floods that ravage the Gangetic plain year after year are partly caused by rivers originating in Nepal, and India cannot tame these rivers without the cooperation of Nepal.

Respect for the sovereignty of Nepal and Indian help only at Nepal's turn were the running themes of Mr. Gujral's meeting with the Nepalese leaders. The external affairs minister reassured the Nepalese leadership that India is ready to offer all possible help and cooperation to Nepal in its industrialization and economic reconstruction. While India proposed a comprehensive framework of economic cooperation, Nepal on its part appealed to the Indian entrepreneurs and business houses to set up industrial ventures in the Himalayan kingdom.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Indian dignitary, the home minister of Nepal, Mr. Yog Prasad Upadhyaya, announced that his government is going to introduce an open door industrial policy and invited the Indian businessmen to avail of this opportunity. Areas suggested by the two sides for economic cooperation include forestry, ecology, water resources, and joint ventures in the private sector, as well as human resource development. India has also agreed in principle to a request from Nepal to open up three entry points for non-Indian tourists along the Indo-Nepal border. After the talks, Mr. Gujral also disclosed that an Indian team of experts will be visiting Nepal soon to study the setting up of a rail link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu. Both the leaders expressed satisfaction over the pace of implementation of the joint communique signed in New Delhi in June this year during Mr. Bhattarai's visit.

Mr. Gujral handed over to the Nepalese prime minister a check for 1 million rupees toward the fund set up to help the victims of the movement for democracy in Nepal. Mr. Gujral also had an important meeting with King Birendra on the need for the countries of South Asia to seriously consider reducing military expenditure and diverting it for economic development. King Birendra wanted India to take a lead in furthering regional cooperation. The King has accepted an invitation to visit New Delhi.

Another important contribution of the visit of Mr. Gujral has been that India has agreed to the request of Nepal to send constitutional experts to Kathmandu to help it in the drafting of the new constitution. Consequently, Indian constitutional experts Mr. L.M. Singhwi and Mr. A.G. Noorani would be in Kathmandu to help the Constitution Recommendations Commission to fulfill its task of drafting the new constitution. In its totality, the visit can be described as a success which has further cemented and strengthened Indo-Nepal relations.

Iraq Offers To Cooperate in Evacuation of Indians

BK1508054890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0320 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to consider a joint initiative to restore peace in the Gulf. Addressing a meeting in Moscow, the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, has said the Soviet Union has expressed its desire to cooperate with India in the evacuation of the citizens of the two countries from Iraq and Kuwait.

In an unexpected move, the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz, had a telephonic conversation with Mr. Gujral and assured him of his country's full cooperation in the safe evacuation of Indian nationals from Kuwait and Iraq.

An Air India plane with 210 Hajj pilgrims, which took off from Amman last night, has reached Bombay early this morning. These pilgrims were stranded in Baghdad and included 60 Indians who had crossed over to Amman from Kuwait.

Gujral To Visit Washington, Baghdad on Mission

BK1508075490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, now in Moscow will be flying to Washington this evening and on his way back will halt in Baghdad in an effort to bring about a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Gulf.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, rang up Mr. Gujral in Moscow yesterday and extended him a personal invitation to visit Baghdad. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi described as very positive the response to India's initiative to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Soviet Coverage of Gujral's Visit to Moscow

WA1508124690

For USSR coverage of Indian Foreign Minister Gujral's visit to Moscow, including talks with Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze on the Persian Gulf crisis, see the Near East and South Asia section of the 15 August Soviet DAILY REPORT.

Striking Air India Pilots Assure Cooperation

BK1408063890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Air India pilots, who had gone on strike on Sunday evening demanding evacuation of the stranded pilots and other crew members of the airlines from Kuwait, have assured that they will fully cooperate with the government. The pilots gave the assurance to the civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, when they called on him in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Khan promised them that the government will make efforts to bring back the stranded crew from Kuwait.

The civil aviation secretary, Mr. A.V. Ganesan, later said that efforts were on to bring the stranded crew members from Kuwait to Baghdad and from there to Amman by road. From there they would be flying to India.

50 Feared Killed in Bus Accident in Bihar 7 Aug

BK0808031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] In Bihar, at least 50 people are feared killed, when a crowded bus plunged into a pond at Bhaktapur village near Darbhanga yesterday. Rescue operations are on.

Sikh Party Calls 72-Hour Strike in Punjab

Protests Security 'Excesses'

BK0708163090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 7 (AFP)—Nine Sikh militants and seven security personnel were among 23 people killed in fighting in India's Punjab state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday. Barring eight, all the other deaths were reported late Monday.

Sikh militants also set off a powerful bomb in a college in Punjab's Jalandhar city Tuesday, wounding seven men including two paramilitary troopers and a teacher, the news agency said. No further details were available. A group of Sikh separatists burst into a customs office in the border district of Amritsar Tuesday and gunned down four security men deployed there. The attackers torched all office files before escaping.

Sikh gunmen armed with AK-47 assault rifles also killed a police constable elsewhere in Amritsar, a separatist stronghold bordering pakistan, Tuesday, PTI said. Also Tuesday, Sikh militants shot dead a member of the federal government railway police, while a police sub-inspector and a rebel wounded in gunbattles Monday died in hospitals.

PTI said the other killings took place across Punjab, India's only Sikh-majority state, overnight Monday. Security forces also reportedly seized a huge quantity of weapons from the militants.

Meanwhile, Punjab's dominant Sikh political party Tuesday called for a 72-hour general strike from 6:00 A.M. (0030 gmt) August 11 in the state to protest alleged excesses by security forces.

The strike has been organised to protest "police repression" and "illegal detention of Sikhs," including women and children, the Akali Dal Party led by ex-police officer Simranjit Singh Mann said. Party General Secretary Ram Singh added that the Akali Dal also supported the call by an outlawed Sikh militant group to observe India's independence day on August 15 as a "black day".

PTI quoted Mr. Ram Singh as saying in Chandigarh, the Punjab capital, that the strike would cover road and rail transport, industries, trade, restaurants and educational institutions. The latest killings have taken to 1,423 the number of people slain so far this year in the Sikh separatist campaign for a homeland called Khalistan (Land of the pure) in Punjab.

Security Steps Taken

BK1008145790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 10 Aug 90

[Text] Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the 72-hour bundh [strike] call in Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh beginning tomorrow morning. The call has been given by the Akali [Dal] Man group and supported by some militant organizations. The adviser to the Punjab governor, Mr. B.S. Kohli, said in Chandigarh that rail and state roadways buses will run on all routes. AIR Chandigarh correspondent reports that about 300 preventive arrests have been made in this connection.

Traffic Normal Despite Strike

BK1108085390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh, trains and buses left for their destinations on all the routes within and outside the state despite the 72-hour bundh [strike] call beginning this morning.

According to an official spokesman, police escorts have, however, been provided in all the buses and trains.

According to a Northern Railway spokesman, movement of trains was normal on all routes except on the Ferozepore-Jullundur section. The spokesman said traffic was disrupted on the section last night due to a blast on the railway track near (Bakur).

Strike Evokes Mixed Response

BK1108164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh, the 72-hour bundh [strike] called by the Akali Dal-Mann group evoked mixed response on the first day today. According to the state home secretary, Mr. A.S. Chadha, the bundh failed to make much impact on normal life. The response was, however, more evident in the border belt of Gurdaspur and Amritsar Districts and some interior rural areas. Trains and government buses are plying on all routes under police escort. Private buses also plied at many places. Most of the shops and business establishments were open except at a few places in rural areas. Essential services and supply of milk and vegetables were not affected.

Meanwhile, security forces all over the state are maintaining a strict vigil over the situation. The Akali Dal-Theruman president, Mahant Seva Das Singh, has condemned the bundh. In a statement in New Delhi, he said bundhs cannot solve any problem.

900 Arrested 12 Aug

BK1208162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, the 72-hour bundh [strike] call given by the Akali Dal-Mann and supported by some militant organizations has not affected normal life on the second day today. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, all the trains are running as per schedule and about 2,000 government and private buses left for various destinations within and outside the state since this morning. The shops, business establishments, government offices, banks, and educational institutions were closed, today being Sunday. Hotels, restaurants, and tea shops catered to the needs of the customers. No untoward incident has so far been reported from anywhere.

The number of preventive arrests made in connection with the bundh has gone up to 900. Meanwhile, 14 persons, including 10 terrorists, were killed in separate incidents in the state since last night.

UDF Calls Strike in Kerala, Several Injured

Affects Traffic, Business

BK1308164590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] In Kerala, normal life was affected today due to the 24-hour bundh [strike] called by the Congress-I-led United Democratic Front [UDF]. Vehicular traffic remained off the road and business establishments remained closed. State and central government offices and banks functioned with thin attendance. Essential services like electricity, water supply, and hospitals were exempted from the bundh. Train services were not affected. However, cargo handling at Cochin Port was partially affected. Incidents of stone throwing on police vehicles and state road transport buses were reported from various parts of the state. The police had to open fire in the air to disperse a violent mob at Mattancheri in Cochin and Peruntalmanar in Mallapuram District.

Some policemen were injured in stone throwing incidents. Two persons were killed and over 50 injured in separate incidents of violence. The chief minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar, told newsmen in Trivandrum this evening that the bundh was violent and politically motivated. The opposition leader, Mr. K. Karunakaran, alleged that the government misused official machinery and tried to attack UDF workers in various parts of the state.

To Protest Prices

BK1308075490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] In Kerala, normal life has been disrupted following the Congress-I-led, United Democratic Front-sponsored 24-hour statewide bundh [strike] which began at midnight last night. The bundh has been called in protest against price rises and the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

According to PTI, the bundh is, by and large, peaceful except for some incidents of stone throwing and picketing of passenger trains. The government offices in the capital are functioning with depleted attendance.

Curfew Imposed in Kashmir Town; Bus Set On Fire

BK1308164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, curfew was imposed in Baramula town today as a precautionary measure. Ten subversives have been arrested in Srinagar city during the last 24 hours. In Pulwama District, terrorists hijacked a passenger bus of the State Road Transport Corporation and later set it on fire.

Massacres, Rape by Soldiers In Kashmir Reported

BK1408055590 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 14 Aug 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Reports from Jammu and Kashmir say Indian soldiers killed 25 civilians last Friday [10 August] during an attack on a village. The incident is said to have followed a clash with Kashmiri separatists. The village is near the cease-fire line which divides the Pakistani and

Indian administrations in Kashmir. Our Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, spoke to one of the first journalists on the scene.

[Begin Mark Tully recording] In the small village of Pazipura, my colleague, Satish Jacob, saw 25 new graves. Villagers said everyone buried in them had been killed by soldiers of the Indian Army on Friday. According to the villagers, an army patrol was ambushed by Kashmiri militants. When other soldiers in the nearby camp heard the shots, they rushed toward Pazipura (?farming). Thirteen people were killed in rice fields outside the village and at least 12 inside the village. According to the villagers, 50 people are still missing. A government employee said he was forced by soldiers to carry dead bodies to the graveyard. A 16-year old girl told Satish Jacob that she had been raped and the soldiers had stolen money from her home. Police say five cases of rape have been registered. A large number of houses have also been burnt down in the village. Official spokesman of the Kashmir government maintains that only 12 people were killed and that they died when the security forces fired on their attackers. Satish Jacob says the graves prove that version to be incorrect.

There were three separate incidents last week in which the Indian security forces killed people in retaliation for attacks. The Pazipura incident was particularly serious not just because of the extent of the massacre but also because the army, India's most disciplined force, was involved. Some observers believe these incidents are occurring because the sweeping powers given to the security forces last month have given soldiers and policemen the impression that they can take the law into their own hands. [end recording]

Antireservation Agitation in Bihar, Calcutta

Several Arrested

BK1108164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In Bihar, antireservation agitation continued for the third day today. Reports of arson, violence, roadblockades, and damage to government property have been received from different parts of the state. Train services have been affected at various stations. Police have arrested several agitators at different places. All examinations of the Bihar University have been postponed indefinitely in view of the tension in Muzaffarpur Town. The chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has directed the administration to deal sternly with those indulging in violence.

Reports from Calcutta say antireservation agitators set fire to Rampur Dumra Station on the Eastern Railway's Danapur Division, about 400 km from Howrah. As a result of this, a number of long-distance trains were detained or (?rerouted) on the Danapur Division.

Police Kill Two

BK1308165690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] [Monitored in progress due to one-minute power failure] The agitation by the antireservationists continued today in different parts of the state. Railway property was the main target of their attack. Railway sources told our Patna correspondent that the agitationists tried to burn bogies [railroad cars], railway stations and disrupted railway traffic at different places, especially in north Bihar. The most affected places are Jhajhanpur in Madhubani District and Sasaram where two persons were killed in police firing and two others injured.

Bomb Blast Kills 'At Least Four' in Delhi

BK1508053290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0320 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] At least four persons were killed and about 20 injured, when a powerful bomb exploded last night in Lawrence Road area of North Delhi, where Janmashtami [Hindu festival] celebrations were in progress. Police sources told our correspondent this morning that the bomb was fitted with a timer device and was placed in a bag a little before the blast occurred.

Sri Lankan Navy Opens Fire on Indian Fishermen

BK1108160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] A fresh batch of nearly 2,500 Tamil refugees arrived in Rameswaram from Sri Lanka today. With this, the total number of refugees crossing over to India has risen to over 67,000. Reports reaching Rameswaram say that one of the boats carrying about 45 refugees capsized on way to Dhanushkodi last night.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on Indian fishermen near Kachchaitivu this morning. None were injured. They also took away the catch of fishermen.

Iran

Tehran Ready for 'Any Cooperation' in Region

LD1108090790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With greetings to the ever-ready defenders of Islam and with greetings to the brave nation we begin today's program of holy defense:

Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait has once again infested the region of the Persian Gulf with tension. Undoubtedly, paving the way for the presence of foreign forces in the region will endanger the peace, security, and independence of the countries of the region.

It is the duty of governments and nations to remain alert and prepared, and not allow arrogant powers to interfere in the region; they must solve the problems as they see fit.

During eight years of holy defense, when it was at war with the united front of global arrogance, the Islamic Republic of Iran had repeatedly warned against the growth of the tendency toward domination and militarism, as well as their dangers. The Islamic Republic of Iran always called for a serious confrontation with those who nurtured such tendencies. However, nobody paid attention. If the views of the officials of the Islamic Republic were heeded, we may well have been spared the agony of witnessing the mounting tension and confrontation in the region. Instead, security and tranquility could have prevailed in the region.

Now, though it seems a little too late, the aggressor must yet be condemned and punished. Through application of serious pressure the roots of bullying and aggression must be dried up. It is a fact that the world can no longer accept the language of force and weapons, that the settlement of issues among countries can no longer be solved through resorting to weapons. Today it is time that logic and law act as the agents for solving differences, rather than bullying and militarism.

While condemning the aggression against the small country of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared for any kind of cooperation with the countries of the region—any cooperation that may restore peace and tranquillity, and that may prevent the presence and the influence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf. It is in the interests of the regional countries to pay attention to the recommendations of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the most powerful country in the region. They can rest assured that in that way tranquility, stability, and security can be attained.

Rafsanjani Condemns Iraq, Notes Army Readiness

LD1208114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] At a gathering today of public relations and propaganda officials of the main units of the ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a number of political- ideological officials of the armed forces, President Hashemi- Rafsanjani expressed concern over the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region. He added: The presence of foreign forces has created a crisis in the region and turned it into a powderkeg. There is some concern over the future.

The president condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and added: The events that have taken place in the region are neither a battle between revolution and counterrevolution nor a fight between reactionaries and progressives. The fight is over the capture of a treasure, and this act was one of the worst Iraqi deeds. The nature of aggression is ugly and anyone could have foreseen that such an aggression would result in the presence of foreign forces.

Noting the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf, Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani added: The region is the main energy supplier of the world and the world is dependant on it and cannot easily do without it. The only country whose power we can count on is Iran. We must always maintain our military preparedness and defensive capabilities in order to safeguard the security of the region, our revolution, and our interests. Our armed forces have a very important responsibility regarding a region which can plunge into turmoil at any moment.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said after mentioning the animosity, hatred, and disdain of international oppression against the Islamic revolution during Iraq's aggression against Iran: International oppression is now expressing sorrow at having put that level of facilities at the disposal of Iraq. Now that it has, to a degree, come to its senses, it realizes that it put too many facilities at Iraqi disposal. At the time, due to their animosity and disdain, and their fear of Islam, they gave Iraq a completely free hand and armed it, with the result that it has now become a problem for them and they are trying to find a way out.

The president added: Under those circumstances, our military forces managed to pass this historical test with pride by defending the country. In history's judgement, the people of Iran have defeated the greatest of plots, satisfied honor and achieved glory. With each passing day and the discovery of new facts, the depth of steadfastness of our sacrificing people becomes more clear.

He added: When Iraq committed aggression against a revolution through its attack against Iran, it believed that the Iranian military forces were weak due to the revolution. It applied the same view to Kuwait, a small nation incapable of defending itself. The difference is that due to Iran's independence, oppression defended the aggressor and international circles encouraged the aggressor by their silence. However, since Kuwait is a treasure desired by international oppression, everyone is opposing the aggressor.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, noting that international oppression will not easily tolerate independent and religious forces, stressed the need for readiness and awareness on the part of the armed forces, adding: A powerful force like Iran can safeguard the security of the region. This is the responsibility of the armed forces.

He continued: The world has come to realise that Iran does not commit aggression and is not a bully. We have a message for the people of the world. We intend to carry out our holy and humane duties, which do not mean committing aggression against anyone.

The president went on to praise the role of the propaganda and political-ideological officials of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in increasing the religious, cultural, and political understanding of the armed forces. He said: Given the current circumstances in the world, it is a duty to maintain the presence of forces of sacrifice next to the armed forces. Your responsibilities are great since you are the guardians of the

armed forces. Naturally arms are imporant, but their effects are multiplied by faith.

The president noted: One of your sources of pride is that you serve directly under the command of the supreme commander of the forces and the great leader of the Islamic revolution, this holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, and this can give you more faith and certainty.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Safa'i, representative of Vali-e Faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] and head of the political-ideological department of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, offered the president a report.

Blames Crisis on States Arming Iraq

LD1408122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the Iranian students who are studying abroad this morning and referred to the events in the Persian Gulf region and said: The world response to this event shows what an immense phenomenon the Islamic revolution victory was in this part of the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the latest problem arose when Iraq apparently attacked its small neighbor, and the world countries have taken steps to support Kuwait. This is an event which could have occurred anywhere else in the world. But everyone knows that this region is different from other parts of the world.

The president pointed out: Some time ago Grenada and Panama were attacked and there were wars in the region, Iraq launched an attack on Iran and there were problems along the Indochina border, in India, Pakistan, and Africa. However, the United Nations and the Security Council did not show such a response; but the fact that forces were dispatched from various regions of the world so quickly, that most countries and all the powerful states adopted a stand, that a naval blockade is being enforced, and that propaganda and opposition is being organized indicate the high degree of sensitivity of the region. Of course, the reality of the region makes it necessary to be like this. Oil and gas play a very significant role in the life of the developed and industrial countries of the world, and the biggest oil resources are in this region of the world. Other world resources are declining and only such countries as Iran, Iraq, Arabia, the UAE (United Arab Emirates), and Venezuela have the potential to increase production. Iran's gas resources could be piped to the eastern and western areas of Iran to give gas to many countries, and it is for the same reason that the industrial world counts on the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that after the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution Iraq thought the power balance in the region had been altered and that Iraq could push its old rival out of the arena. He added: The fact that the world opposed the existence of an independent country in this region created a good opportunity for Iraq to realize its dream. In the course of this conspiracy all satans of the world united against the Islamic revolution, and although they knew it was not wise to arm Iraq to this extent they armed it unstintingly. The regional states financed Saddam Husayn and sold oil on his behalf. Others gave him destructive chemical weapons. During the latter days of the war, when they realized that Iraq could not match Iran and was on the verge of destruction and total defeat, they formally entered the war and attacked Iran's oil platform, which they themselves had built before. They attacked our warships and passenger planes and created a tragedy. But at the end of all those satanic attacks, the Islamic Republic remained on its feet with pride and stability. I must say that history has not yet shown justice in its judgement. But one day fair historians will write the facts in books, and it will become clear what a big conspiracy was neutralized by the Islamic revolution—to reach a safe haven by challenging the most treacherous waves. Today, as the most stable system in the region, without receiving any assistance from any country, it has stood firm as a mountain, thanks to the selfless people's endurance of all the hardship. Today the neighbors no longer wish to repeat the Iraqi experience. Global arrogance, too, has become despondent and has to put up with the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, we must always remain vigilant, and currently we are allocating large resources to supplying military requirements.

Referring to the point that the hard times have gone and we have entered a relatively new phase, the president told the students: One of the difficulties we face in the Five-Year Plan is the manpower shortage in all fields. Of course, more students are accepted in universities and the students studying abroad bring hope. [passage omitted]

Moqtada'i Says Foreign Forces 'Aggravate Tension'

LD1108125590 Tehran IRNA in English 1114 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—A senior official Saturday stressed that problems of the Persian Gulf region must be settled only by the people of the region.

Chief Justice Hojjat ol-Eslam Morteza Moqtada'i, addressing a flag hoisting ceremony of the gendarmerie forces here Saturday, reiterated that presence of foreign forces would only aggravate tension in the region.

"Presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is not meant to defend the legitimate rights of the Muslims, but rather to safeguard their own interests," he said. The Hojjat ol-Eslam noted, "today tyrant rulers of the region and oppressor powers are paying for their silence towards crimes the Iraqi regime committed in its imposed war (on Iran) and its deployment of chemical bombs in Halabja."

He then lauded the services of the gendarmerie personnel in the course of the eight-year old imposed war

and urged them to campaign against corruption and strive to enforce divine rules in the country.

Official Says U.S. Presence in Region 'Harmful'

LD1408113890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and the head of the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation, addressed a conference of organizations from throughout the country this morning. While condemning Iraq's military invasion of Kuwaiti territory, he referred to the dispatch of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf and said: The presence of the United States in the region—even though it may be temporary—is harmful to the security of the region and to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Majles speaker said about the visit to Iran by Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister: There was a request in this connection from Iraq. For the Islamic Republic of Iran the visit is conditional on Iraq accepting the 1975 accord. However, the talks in connection with UN Security Council Resolution 598 are continuing all the same.

Mr. Karrubi then referred to the need for the greatest care for the families of martyrs and said: The university for martyrs' children which will open on 23 September will accept students in at least five fields. According to our reporter, at the opening ceremony of the conference of the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation, 180 pieces of gold were presented to the Majles speaker for the honorable families of martyrs and the Martyr's Foundation's staff of the town of Khomeyn for the benefit of the victims of the earthquake in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

Ahmad Khomeyni Terms Saddam 'Replica of Hitler'

LD1408134490 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of Imam Khomeyni said to a group of members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a meeting with them at Jamaran Mosque here today that Saddam is the modern times replica of Hitler.

He said if Iraq should perpetuate her occupation of Kuwait without protest by others and make it a matter of fact it means that "no one state in the region will have a happy day ahead."

He commented, "If the United States should wish to build up her troops in the region with the idea of dominating the region, then our revolutionary forces will counter that device of the world arrogance."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Araqi, personal representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution at the IRGC said in the same meeting before Ayatollah Khamene'i that Imam Khomeyni had predicted the current developments in the Persian Gulf.

The meeting here was on the occasion of a mourning ceremony in the month of Moharram and in memory of Imam Hoseyn (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

Spokesman Comments on Iraqi Proposal

LD1508085390 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—"Iran will review the latest Iraqi proposal with optimism," said a spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council here a short while ago. Iran has not yet received the latest Iraqi proposal through official and diplomatic channels," he told IRNA adding "we are waiting to receive the proposal from official channels."

According to the spokesman "diplomatic sources have informed us that they will deliver the official message of Saddam to diplomats in Tehran by Wednesday night." The message of the Iraqi president is to be delivered by a delegation of Iraqi diplomats."

"No official stance will be adopted before a full study of the contents of Saddam's proposal on withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to the international borders and acceptance of the 1975 accord," he told IRNA.

Saddam Husayn in a speech broadcast on Baghdad Radio about two hours ago, offered to remove Iraqi troops from Iranian territories, to free the Iranian POWs and accept a division of Arvand River as of this coming Friday.

The spokesman described as baseless rumors by Western media sources on acceptance or rejection of the Wednesday morning proposal of Saddam.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Ready To Send Fighters

LD1408111990 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—An Iraqi opposition leader said here Tuesday [14 August] that his group is capable of mobilizing 100,000 fighters to encounter the aggression of the Baghdad regime and overthrow the Iraqi ruler.

Speaking in a press conference Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, SAIRI, added, "In the initial stage the SAIRI can mobilize 50,000 fighters within the next few days and double it in the later stage using capabilities of the Iraqis residing abroad."

The Hojjat ol-Eslam condemned the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and stressed that the Iraqi people are not involved in this action and are innocent. Speaking to foreign and domestic reporters he also deplored the presence of foreign forces in the region which he said

further aggravates the tension. He said: "The Iraqi regime has no respect for international regulations and principles and in a bid to rid itself of internal economic, political and military crisis has invaded the neighbouring rich Kuwait."

He also refuted claims of the Baghdad regime and its excuses for the August 2 invasion of Kuwait such as saving Islam and its sanctities. He described these claims as mere lies. "The Iraqi regime does not believe in Islam and has even supported massacre of Muslims in the holy Mecca," Hakim told reporters.

According to the Iraqi opposition leader, the regional crisis can come to an end by overthrowing the Iraqi regime. He urged international bodies and foreign powers which have so far supported Saddam and have now become aware of the wretched desires of the Baghdad ruler to shift their support to the Iraqi popular and Islamic forces and assist them in their struggle to seize power in Iraq.

He added that the crisis will subside only through the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the Persian Gulf and consolidation of friendly ties among regional countries. "The presence of foreign forces is not in the interest of the people and countries of the region.... Had the Arab regimes respected the will of their people, today, Saddam would not have dared to attack Kuwait," he stressed.

He said, "Both on regional and international levels, plans are under way, and SAIRI has established contacts with countries of the region, including Syria and Kuwait."

"Iraqis must be ready for a fundamental change," he said, adding that SAIRI can mobilize 50,000 combatants in a few days time.

Hakim stressed that the overthrow of the Iraqi ruler is a top priority in SAIRI's plans and that SAIRI will move toward this objective when conditions are right.

The SAIRI head also condemned the arrest of a group of Iraqi immigrants residing in Kuwait by Iraqi military forces after the seizure of the country.

'Unconditional Withdrawal' of Iraqi Forces Urged

LD1508091490

[Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0740 GMT on 15 August carries its scheduled 30-minute "Revolutionary Guards Corps" program live. At 0743 GMT the announcer interrupts to report that Iraq has agreed to the terms of the 1975 Algerian Treaty.

The "Revolutionary Guards Corps" program is then resumed with a commentary that blames the current crisis in the Persian Gulf on the UN Security Council's complacency during the course of the Iran-Iraq war. The commentary also denounces both superpowers for arming Iraq and ignoring the war atrocities during the Security Council sessions on the war issues.

In conclusion the presenter says:

"In the wake of Iraq's deployment of forces and aggression in Kuwait which led to the annexation of that country, the region is on the threshold of a big crisis, perhaps a unique and unprecedented crisis. This blatant military aggression has opened the way for the presence of the superpowers and the Western powers in this strategic and important region. The grounds have become suitable for a bloody military confrontation that no doubt will seriously threaten the security and tranquility of this sensitive area of the world.

"It seems that the only alternative to save the Persian Gulf from the crisis it is facing today is the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait's territory and respect for that country's sovereignty and independence. Certainly this is in the interests of the Baghdad regime and the region's countries."

College Students Condemn U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1308184790 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—The Muslim Association of College Students throughout Iran on Monday condemned the U.S. presence in the region saying that the U.S., which is involved in every manner of aggression throughout the world, can now hardly claim to be committed to fighting aggression.

It said: "The presence of the U.S. military forces in the region for warding off aggression is simply a farcical play, and the U.S. whose hands are stained in the people's blood and whose feet are encroaching upon other people's lands cannot claim to be committed to fighting off aggression.

"Muslims must know that the United States is present in the region not with the idea of fighting off aggression but for the purpose of perpetuating its control of its own interests in the world's energy resources and that it is seizing the opportunity to grab those resources.

"No doubt wherever the U.S. should set its foot it will bring it infamy and misery. Obviously the military presence of the United States and of arrogant powers in the region would not be in the best interests of the peoples of the region. They are in the region for the purpose of seizing the resources and the wealth of Muslim nations and it is the duty of world Muslims to oppose the presence of the U.S. in the region and especially in Hijaz which is the common land of all Muslim nations.

"The turncoat rulers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who have paved the way for the coming in the region of the U.S. troops as well as the timid heads of Arab states who endorsed the U.S. invasion in their own conference are all responsible for the consequences of this act and are condemnable in the view of Muslim nations.

"The Shaykh of Saudi Arabia who was a supporter of Saddam during the war with Iran and who is now being threatened by Saddam does not defend the independence of his own country, but supports and upholds actually only his own servile government because the government in Hijaz is now at the invitation of the Saudis themselves occupied by the U.S. troops.

"The people of the world have not yet forgotten the aggression of the United States against such small countries as Granada and Panama which led to the fall of the governments in those countries and the installing of U.S.-led governments in their stead. What is the difference between the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the aggression against those countries by the United States? Those two instances are simply a small portion of many other similar instances of aggression by the United States.

"The world of arrogance, the international circles, and the forgetful world which did not even once heed then reasoning of the Islamic Republic of Iran for condemning the aggressor party in the war have now of a sudden as though come to themselves and condemned Saddam concertedly. But if those governments had heeded the pleas of Iran and if they had condemned Saddam for his aggression against Iran then Iraq's war with Iran would not drag on for eight years nor would Iraq today feel free to stand against the conscience of the entirety of the world people.

"Now that the legitimacy of Iran's position with respect to Iraq's war with Iran has been demonstrated to the world people we expect the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to act prudently and with due insight in relation with the crisis that is plaguing the region."

Student Union Plans Anti-U.S. Rally 19 Aug

LD1408182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug, 14, IRNA—The nationwide Union of Muslim Students Association (Unity Consolidation Office) today called on Iranians, "particularly university students and staff" to take part in an anti-U.S. demonstration in Tehran on Aug. 19.

In a statement issued here, the office said the rally will be held in front of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran and in protest to the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

It said details of the rally will be announced later.

Following the Iraqi invasion and annexation of the Persian Gulf sheikhdom of Kuwait (on Aug. 2), the U.S. has strengthened its military build-up in the region on the pretext of defending Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The latter country has now been turned to a military base of the U.S. forces who have posed to check further adventurism by Iraq.

Commentary Considers National Role in Gulf Crisis

NC1108213390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Political commentary]

[Text] Iraq's declaration of its annexation of Kuwait 10 days after its troops occupied that country has added new dimensions to the crisis being aggravated in the Persian Gulf. This has prompted political and military observers to predict a black and dangerous future for the region.

In light of the recent development, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a message yesterday to the UN secretary general in which it declared its objection to any change in the political map of the region. It underlined this position on the basis of its capacity as the strongest state in the Persian Gulf region. The message, which was sent yesterday, says that Iran views the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, its occupation of that country, and Kuwait's annexation to Iraq as conflicting with the various international laws and established rules, and this is categorically rejected. In its message, Iran views this aggressive act as serving the interests of the powers which seek domination and of the Zionist entity. It demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territories, without any reservations.

This message from the Iranian Foreign Ministry to the UN secretary general and the other message that preceded it by several days come to remind the international organization of its responsibilities toward international crises, particularly the one in the Persian Gulf. The continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the arrival of foreign forces in the region are signs of the aggravation of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. This makes it incumbent upon the international organization to act upon its duties and responsiblities and to take more strict and effective measures to settle the current crisis. The people's right to sovereignty and the recognition of the political borders of the UN members are two of the main responsibilities which the international organization must undertake for its members.

Iraq's aggression and annexation of Kuwait makes it incumbent on the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities because any laxity here will cause a widespread crisis whose consequences cannot be predicted. In addition, the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region was not undertaken according to international law and was not approved by the Security Council. It is in itself a violation of international law. International laws and norms say that regional problems must be solved by the peoples and governments of the concerned region and that the presence of foreign forces does not help resolve the crisis but even contributes to its exacerbation to a large extent.

Besides being a reminder of the international organization's responsibility to preserve and defend the sovereignty of peoples, the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN secretary general is an affirmation by the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its capacity as the strongest state in the region, of its rejection of any change in the political borders of the region's countries or any practices that contravene international law. It will undoubtedly not remain a spectator if this situation continues.

Paper Terms Arab League Summit 'Disgrace'

LD1208120890 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Two morning dailies Sunday [12 August] editorialized on the unprecedented developments and massive presence of foreign troops in the Persian Gulf region in the aftermath of the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI condemned the Arab reactionary regimes for their abasement before the diabolic powers but show of power before their own people.

The daily denounced the Cairo Arab League summit describing it a "disgrace for the Arab world" and said it demonstrated the peak of desperation and confusion of the reactionary Arab leaders.

Therefore, the article noted, Iraq's Saddam Husayn should not be blamed for misusing this weakness of the Arab reactionaries for his own ends.

For this same reason, it added, recent developments in the region should not be viewed as a sign of Iraqi powerfulness, but rather the product of wretchedness of the Arab reactionaries.

The article regretted the sad fate of the Kuwaiti people and urged Muslims throughout the world to sympathize with the Kuwaitis for the crime the incompetent al-Sabah family committed against them.

"Such coward and treacherous regimes are not competent to rule over a nation and safeguard their dignity, lives and property," commented the daily.

Meanwhile, ABRAR predicted that the Persian Gulf crisis will not be settled soon, adding that a variety of multinational Western and Arab troops have been dispatched to the region under the pretext of safeguarding Saudi Arabia in case of a possible Iraqi aggression.

The U.S. pressure on participants at the Cairo session led to the agreement of formation of multinational Arab forces with the sole objective to overshadow the unprecedented built-up of Western troops in Saudi Arabia, the daily said.

However, the article stressed, it is far beyond expectations that the Iraqi regime, after its seizure of Kuwait, would risk attacking Saudi Arabia under the present conditions.

With the presence of Arab peace keeping forces in Saudi Arabia, with any spark the Arab forces will end up in the front line rather the U.S. and Western forces, allowing the latter to take advantage of the outcome, it said. [sentence as received]

Commentary on Repercussions of Gulf Crisis

LD1308144190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Greetings, dear listeners. Following the U.S. announcement that it will block the passage of all oil tankers carrying Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, it now seems that Washington has in effect taken a step towards a military confrontation with Iraq. The Kuwaiti Government had previously asked the United States to blockade Iraq. In a fierce reaction, the Iraqi Government immediately condemned the U.S. decision on the possibility of attacking its tankers, describing it as a hostile act.

Notwithstanding the fact that the UN Security Council had already sanctioned the imposition of an economic embargo against Iraq and a ban on any imports from and exports to that country, now the United States, under the pretext of a so-called official request from Kuwait, intends to enact this economic blockade.

The possibility of a military confrontation between Iraq and the United States or even the Egyptian forces based in Arabistan [Saudi Arabia], intensified when Saddam put forward his plan for the resolution of the crisis yesterday. [passage omitted]

In view of the complexity of the situation in the Middle East, political analysts believe that Saddam's proposals were set out as a means of buying himself more time. Aware of popular sensitivites to the Palestinian issue, and/or the deployment of U.S. troops in Arabistan, he attempts to exploit popular wishes to his advantage. Moreover, in his plan, by being elusive he avoided any mention of the issue of the future sovereignty of Kuwait, and/or the annexation of that country to Iraq. Despite the old proverb which says: Taking a big stone indicates that one does not intend to use it—in other words, Saddam knows that his conditions will not be realized at present, even if we assume that various withdrawals will take place—it is necessary to alter many of the equations in the Middle East, especially with regard to Palestine, Lebanon, and Kuwait. Apart from the fact that such alterations seem to be very difficult under the present circumstances, and in view of the dependence of a number of governments in the region on the foreign forces, these alterations also require a long period of time—long enough to give an air of normality to the

occupation of Kuwait and its annexation to Iraq—and its ensuing problems will gradually be forgotten.

Analysts also believe that Saddam knows better than anyone that his plan will not be realized. However, along with his use of military strategy, he attempts to portray himself as one open to political initiatives and as one who believes it is possible to end the present crisis through peaceful means. Moreover, he attempts to exploit the inflamed sentiments of Muslims in the region regarding the deployment of U.S. forces in the region, along with their general hatred of the United States and its allies, so as to establish a popular base for himself and to exert pressure on the United States and the West in terms of public opinion, and in so doing diminishing the possibility of any military intervention by them against Iraq.

Amid all this, it should not be forgotten that the military occupation of Kuwait, followed by its annexation to Iraq, has widened the concept of violation which had hitherto been confined to the Israeli regime, by Arab governments thus bringing that regime out of isolation. In addition, this attack has served to further consolidate ties between the United States and Israel, pushing the issue of Palestine and the uprising of that territory's Muslim inhabitants into oblivion for the present. Also, the main factor providing the United States with a pretext to deploy a multinational force on Saudi territory, is that of Iraq's military action against Kuwait; an action which has caused such factionalism and discord among the Arab governments that they have been forced to avoid remarks regarding Arab unity, joint defensive pacts, or regional organizations for a while.

Papers on Gulf Situation, Saddam's Next Move

LD1308113390 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—A morning daily in its editorial Monday commented that both Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah regimes realise that their present fate is the product of their support for Iraq in its aggression against Iran and that no one, not even the U.S., can help save them.

Referring to Saudi request of help from Washington, 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' believed that by such an appeal the ground was prepared for the U.S. to materialize its long-wished ambitions—a lasting presence in Saudi Arabia and the whole region. The U.S. is presently working to create psychological ground to justify such a massive build up of forces, it added.

It further believed that the U.S. does not seem to be disturbed by the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait, but rather welcomed it as it provided an excuse for the dispatch of U.S. and Western military forces to the region.

At the same time, the paper continued, it seems to be a direct effort to contain the Islamic revolution in the region.

Under the pretext of establishing security, Al Sa'ud turned to those who themselves have been the root cause of insecurity in the region in the past decade. At the same time Al Sa'ud assured them that the whole cost of their military deployment will be paid by petrodollars, it said.

The daily, deplored that it was too bitter and torturesome for the region nations to have to pay the heavy cost of safeguarding the throne of the corrupt Al Sa'ud regime by petrodollars which belongs to the people of these countries.

"In the past decade the U.S. and the West in collaboration with these same courts and through exploiting the wealth of the regional nations, have created a trouble spot in the region," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The paper also voiced the conviction that the U.S. threats against Iraq since its August 2 seizure of Kuwait were hollow and that nobody was willing to sacrifice anything to secure returning of Kuwaiti Shaykh. These threats aim at justifying massive deployment of NATO armies in the region.

Another Persian daily 'ABRAR' in its editorial titled 'Economic Sanction and Blockade Against Iraq' said that consequences of the blockade were gradually showing up. It doubted whether Iraq could stand the economic blockade longer than two months as no land, sea or air link is no longer available.

The daily believed that reluctance of the West and particularely the U.S. to become directly engaged in a war in the region, means that the economic blockade will be pursued more vigorously. But as the Iraqi endurance is limited, Saddam will have two options: Either secure sympathy of certain countries to lift the sanctions or attack Saudi Arabia in a bid to shift its problems away from Iraq.

According to ABRAR the first option does not seem practical as Iraq's embarassing economic conditions will not allow it to withstand the sanctions in spite of the fact that there are certain countries willing to ease the pressure of the blockade.

Under this circumstances the only way out for Saddam and the only short-term remedy for his problems remains to be attacking Saudi Arabia.

The paper concluded by questioning whether the West would remain silent in case of such attack. However, it is certain that the West has to do without the Persian Gulf oil for an unspecified period of time, something which will create hardship for Europe, Japan and other oil importing countries in the approaching winter.

Paper Notes Threat of Military Confrontation

LD1408145190 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday [14 August] said the idea that with the lapse of

time the threat of a military confrontation in the Persian Gulf region would subside does not seem to hold water.

In its political commentary, ABRAR cited an old proverb which says: "When a weapon is placed on the wall in the first stage of a play, it would be used in the second stage."

True, it said, the required military effort to guarantee effective economic sanctions against Iraq after its August 2 occupation of Kuwait has so far been largely unorganized, while the occupation itself has intensified protests against the Western military presence in the region.

"Moreover, there was a long way to go for an actual multinational force under the supervision of the United Nations in which the presence of Soviet forces is a must", added ABRAR.

On the other hand, said the article, U.S. reluctance in speeding up efforts to restore Sheikh Sabah's rule in Kuwait, means Western and allied Arab forces are content to draw the "defence line in the sand around Saudi oilfields," with the Iraqi army deeply entrenched on Saudi borders.

It thought that the present dead-end would be settled to the advantage of the U.S. only through a complete blockade of all import-export routes to Iraq.

In that case, added ABRAR, economic pressures on Iraq will be gradually increased and the time will come for a "political compromise".

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia could raise their oil output and thus exert further economic pressure on Iraq by exporting more oil, it said.

Turkey, it noted, had also clarified its stand by closing the Iraqi oil pipeline running through that country and blocking all routes to transit goods to Iraq.

But, the article said, stands of Jordan and Syria in the economic seige against Iraq have not been clear yet.

Paper Says Iraqi Invasion Serves U.S. Interests

LD1408131190 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—A Persian daily Tuesday [14 August] rejected Iraqi ruler's claims of being anti-American saying that his invasion of Kuwait served interests of the U.S. and other enemies of Islam.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in an editorial titled 'Saddam's Demagogy' wrote that the massive presence of the U.S. and NATO forces in the region provides Saddam with an opportunity to launch a propaganda tirade portraying himself as the vanguard of an anti-U.S. campaign in the region.

In the light of all sorts of assistance that Saddam received from the U.S. during its eight years of imposed war on Iran such claims are absurd, it added.

The paper also ruled out the Iraqi regime's claims of being anti- Zionist pointing that the Baghdad regime was commissioned to impose the war on Iran in order to contain and halt anti-zionist movement in the region.

The daily stressed that not only the hands of the U.S. and all satanic powers must be curtailed from Saudi Arabia and the whole Persian Gulf region but all factors paving the way for interference of these powers in the destiny of the Muslims must be eliminated.

The present ballyhoo aims at portraying a U.S. lacky as a symbol of anti-U.S. campaigns in the region, said the daily.

The editorial lashed out at the U.S. and the West for encouraging the Baghdad regime to impose the war on the Islamic revolution of Iran, the most sincere and determined anti-Zionist movement in the region. A war which used up the military potentials of the region, it added.

The U.S was the masterminder of this treachery and the regime which executed the plan cannot be introduced as an anti-U.S. one, stressed the daily.

Paper Says Keenan May Be Next Hostage Freed

NC1308122490 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13 (AFP)—Irish hostage Brian Keenan, seized in West Beirut in April 1986, may be the next to be freed in the "not too distant future", the TEHRAN TIMES said Monday [13 August]. The paper, which serves as mouthpiece for Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was commenting in an editorial on last week's release in Lebanon of Swiss International Red Cross worker Emmanuel Christen.

"Lebanese groups and governments who have mediated in this affair by using their spiritual influence are awaiting a response to their show of goodwill," it said.

"If the European governments avoid a show of pride in their response the Irish hostage will be the next candidate for release and this would take place in a not too distant future, informed observers believe."

The kidnapping of Mr. Keenan, 39, a teacher who has dual Irish-British nationality, has never been claimed.

Reportage on Sayyed-Kia Visit to Turkey

For Turkish reportage on the visit by Transport Minister Mohammad Sayyed-Kia to Turkey, including reports on his talks with President Ozal, Prime Minister Akbulut, and other Turkish officials, please see the Turkey section of the 15 August West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Jatoi Addresses Nation 14 Aug

BK1408180090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1425 GMT 14 Aug 90

[National day address by Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear countrymen, respected elders, honorable ladies and gentlemen. peace be upon you. I felicitate the entire nation on the independence day. Today, I am addressing you directly for the first time after assuming the premiership in accordance with the constitutional requirements. The date 14 August marks an auspicious day in our history when our green flag was hoisted for the first time in free skies. We achieved this independence under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah after great sacrifices. Our homeland is a result of the sacrifices of our martyrs. This free homeland is a gift due to which we enjoy a place of honor and dignity in the world. Its defense is the defense of independence and its loss is the loss of independence. This homeland was achieved so that we may live in peace and tranquillity where law and justice prevails in a democratic atmosphere and an environment of affection and brotherhood created by the order of God and the Holy Prophet, may His blessings be upon him.

Anyone who violates these principles hurts Pakistan and poses a threat to our independence and dignity. This is a big national crime. If we have to protect the country and if we have to protect our independence, then we have to keep watch on each of those who wants to deprive the country of law and justice. Anyone who does not consider the wealth of this country as something given in trust promotes hatred and conflict instead of affection and brotherhood. If we have to protect our green flag, if we have to protect the people's honor, dignity and life and property, if we have to protect the future of our youth, and if we have to give the younger generation a clean and prosperous Pakistan, each one of us has to launch a holy war against ills, corruption, hatred, and injustice and courageously come forward to fight these evils.

My brothers and sisters, you, know, I have assumed the responsibilities of prime minister at a very delicate time at the invitation of the president of Pakistan. It was a time when the democratic process in the country was facing a serious threat due to activities by the self-interested people, bribe-takers, people resorting to unfair means, and those indulging in robbery. It was a time when the streets and alleys turned red with the people's blood. Our country was burning with the fire of ethnic riots. There were tears in our eyes and wounds in our hearts.

Therefore, as the prime minister, I have to fulfill heavy responsibilities. I have to give back to the people the wealth of peace and tranquillity which was robbed from them. The process of democracy and the dignity of the Constitution will have to be restored; and they have been badly damaged. Steps should be taken to heal people's wounds. Free and fair elections must be conducted and at the same time the process of accountability must be initiated.

I would like to make it clear that there will be no delay in the elections due to the accountability process. You are fully aware that this is a difficult path which can only be negotiated with the help and guidance of God and the Holy Prophet—may His blessings be upon him—and your cooperation. I am sure that in discharging my duties as a true Pakistani I will continue to get, God willing, the support of all my fellow countrymen.

My brothers and sisters, today on the occasion of independence day we should also try to understand the real difference between independence and slavery. In slavery, the people are helpless and the rulers are above the law and the constitution. In slavery, the people are afflicted with poverty and the rulers control the entire wealth of the state. In slavery, the people cannot even imagine of the accountability of rulers. In an atmosphere of freedom, the government is the custodian and not the owner of the public wealth. The people have not only the right to make the rulers accountable but also should demand they be accountable for their wealth and evaluate their actions, as well as see that the right to rule, given by the people, is being used correctly. This right of the people to demand accountability cannot be challenged.

My brothers, independence day of a nation is the day of accountability by that nation as well. While celebrating the day, we should also ask: In the past year, what steps have been taken to defend independence, the country's dignity, and the people's prosperity? While hoisting our flag, we should also ask what steps have been taken to raise national prestige, how the people were protected from inflation, what steps were taken for the welfare of youths and children. When I look back at the performance of the 20-month-old government, I feel nothing but regret and frustration. The organizations which should have been the people's representative bodies were turned into centers for horse-trading and conscience-trading. The assemblies which symbolized our dignity became objects of our humiliation. The entire nation kept weeping blood and the people's conscience continued to be traded at the legislative assemblies.

You might have heard in detail in the Pakistani president's speech what was done in the name of democratic institutions. I do not want to go into detail now. I would like to say only that Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's sincerity has been applauded by the entire world. It was because of his firm determination that elections were held in 1988 despite a very difficult situation. During the last 20 months, the president repeatedly drew the government's attention to the dreadful mistakes that led to the country and the people being seriously threatened. His efforts could not deviate the government from the path of oppression, corruption, irregularities, and

nepotism. That is why he took the step on 6 August, which was his constitutional duty. In his address he put all facts before the people and the entire Pakistani nation commended his step and described it as a reflection of their aspirations. The Pakistani president's decision testifies to his nobility, his adherence to the Constitution and his love for the motherland.

My countrymen, the antidemocratic activities of the past government was not limited to legislative assemblies alone. An historic example of exploitation and corruption in every walk of life was set. Steps were taken to encourage conflict between the federal and provincial governments. A tradition of commission [preceding word rendered in English—reference to bribery] was established. Superior courts were insulted, attempts were made to damage the dignity of the armed forces, and dangerous plans were made to create conflict between the armed forces and the people. The administration was destroyed by resorting to nepotism and vindictiveness. Ministers forced government officials to sign papers by putting Kalashnikovs to their chests. Ministers were made to launch personal assaults on the president and the dignity of his office. A campaign was launched to destroy the basis of the Senate. Brothers were pitched against each other. Organizations were made to scuffle with each other. The national security was badly endangered.

The rise in prices which was the outcome of the corruption of the commission system broke the people's back. Pakistan's dignity was undermined; Islamic values were mocked; and the Sindh card was played, and the province was turned into a battlefield to establish authority. Ethnic riots were incited in the cities of Sindh, and its barracks were entrusted to robbers. The province, which enjoys the honor of being the first to pass the Pakistan Resolution by its provincial assembly, was made a venue of chaos so great as to be unprecedented in our history.

An attempt was made to have national security look like child's play in order to appease the enemies and involve the armed forces in politics at every step. Sometimes the armed forces were (?commended) and sometimes unfounded charges were levelled against them. Such an atmosphere of chaos and confusion was created that our country, our dear motherland, faced imminent destruction and ruination.

May I ask, is all this not a national crime? This is a crime against Pakistan's wealth, its honor, its institutions, and goes as far as threatening its existence. After assuming the administration and taking over the offices, we found burned documents from most of the ministers' offices. What records were trying to destroy? What crimes were they trying to cover up? These were the crimes against the people and Pakistan and they were part of a game. But in spite of this, ample proof is available of irregularities, bribery, commission, and corruption. Its disclosure will make the people and the world realize what sort of joke was being played on the people of this country and what sort of doomsday the country was nearing.

Anyone who committed these crimes against Pakistan and its people, anyone who made this garden the grazing ground for their lust and greed, is accountable by law, Constitution, and nature. These people shudder in the face of accountability. They know how long is the list of their financial and national crimes and now their endeavor is to create such chaos that it will be impossible to enforce accountability. I want to make it clear that everyone who has looted the wealth of this country will definitely face accountability. If democracy is to be strengthened in this country, the processes of elections and accountability will have to run alongside one another.

Everybody will be produced before the court of justice and anyone who protests this is only trying to escape punishment for his crime. How and under which law can we allow those people to go scot free, people who looted the hard-earned wealth of the Pakistani people, and deprived the poor masses of this country of their bread, children of milk, students of education, and eligible youth of employment? Their crime is enormous. No trick or threat or agitation can prevent us from holding them accountable. This duty will be discharged according to the supreme principles of the Constitution and justice.

Dear countrymen, whether elections or accountability, all these are aimed at building a strong and prosperous Pakistan free from corruption. The situation being created around us demands great attention to our country, our independence, and our stability. Both politicians and members of the Armed Forces have their respective roles to play in the protection of our independence, but the biggest role is played by the people. The conduct displayed by the Armed Forces during the 1988 crisis [following the death of Ziaul Haq] created love and confidence among the people for our soldiers. I assure you that the attempts now being made to destroy these ties of confidence are part of our enemies' plan and, God willing, this conspiracy will never be successful. The role played by the Armed Forces in the defense of the country and the restoration of internal order reflects their courage and professional expertise and this role is the basis of the Pakistan people's confidence.

The entire world is passing through substantial changes. A very grave situation exists in our region. Our stand in this situation is very clear. Pakistan is opposed to the occupation of any country through the use of force and that is why it favors solving all problems facing brotherly countries peacefully. We are assessing the entire situation in the Gulf region created out of the Iraqi attack against Kuwait and its subsequent occupation.

We are deeply concerned about Pakistanis living in this region. We have directed the Pakistani embassies to help and guide their countrymen. We are also in continuous touch with the Iraqi authorities so that Pakistanis in Kuwait will not be harmed. Other than Pakistanis, a large number of foreign nationals are also present in Kuwait. In this connection we are in touch on the

international level. We are also in touch with the International Red Cross, so that in case of further deterioration in the situation, immediate steps can be taken in cooperation with other countries for the protection of our countrymen.

As Muslims, the holy Ka'aba and the tomb of the Holy Prophet are more dear to us than our lives. It will be a great accomplishment to play a role in protecting their sanctity. You must have come to know by now that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, has drawn Pakistan's attention to the threat posed to our holy places and Saudi Arabia. Our Islamic pride, faith, and trust demands that we be ready to discharge our duty.

I and my Cabinet have decided to send an appropriate number of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia for the protection of sanctity of the holy Ka'aba and the tomb of the holy Prophet. I pray that God Almighty will accept our action on behalf of Pakistan and its people. I want to make it clear that sending contingents to Pakistan will in no way reduce Pakistan's own defense capability and complete preparedness to face the present threats at our borders. The armed contingents being sent to Saudia Arabia are only for the protection of the sanctity of the holy places and the defense of Saudia Arabia. There is neither any aggressive design, nor is it the policy of Pakistan to be on the side of anyone posing a military threat to any other country.

The Kashmir issue has always been very important for Pakistan. But now its importance has increased much more than before. Today a big freedom movement is being witnessed in Kashmir. Fed up with Indian oppression, Kashmiri freedom fighters have launched an unstoppable movement. India is committing inhumane crimes against them. Women and children are being shot, religious scholars and political leaders are being martyred, but we are sure that this repression will not be able to stop Kashmir from gaining independence from the clutches of India. Today or tomorrow, India will be forced to grant the Kashmiri people the right to decide their own future through a plebiscite in accordance with the UN resolutions. The people of Kashmir have Pakistan's total moral and political support in their exemplary struggle.

It is also necessary to resolve some other issues with India along with the Kashmir issue. Contacts were made at various levels for this purpose, but unless a dialogue is initiated on the basic issue of Kashmir, the situation cannot improve. Pakistan is closely considering the proposals put forward by India. But we feel that the nature of the deployment of Indian troops on the border is creating further complications, rather than moving us toward a solution to the problem. We want to make it clear that such tactics will not badger us and such pressure cannot force us to change our path. We know how to defend our independence and sovereignty—a characteristic of dynamic nations.

During the last two months, official-level contacts are continuing between India and Pakistan with the aim of reducing tension. In my opinion Indian Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh should be (?convinced) to open a dialogue to settle the Kashmir issue in light of the UN resolutions. We will happily play our role in making high-level talks effective in regard to granting the Kashmiris the right of self-determination.

The unprecedented sacrifice made by the Afghan people to protect their freedom constitutes a bright chapter in Islamic history. They wholeheartedly resisted a foreign army and a government installed by it which was rejected by the Afghan people. And even today, peace in Afghanistan cannot be established due to the existence of an illegal government there. We want a political solution to the issue so that Afghanistan once again can become a land of peace and the refugees can go back to their motherland in full safety and dignity. Our stand is that the administration installed by the might of the Soviet weapons be replaced by a broad-based representative government in Afghanistan.

My brothers and sisters, I take pride in seeing our green flag fluttering in an atmosphere of freedom. The scene I witnessed during my student days when our great leader Jinnah came here flashes through my mind. It was the ceremony when our great leader took his oath as the first governor general of independent Pakistan. The strength derived from his faith in God, enshrined in his words and the power within him arising from honesty and sincerity, are still guiding me even today. The same faith in God, the same trust in God, the same tradition of honesty and sincerity are still of cardinal value for the Pakistanis. Therein lies the secret of a strong and prosperous Pakistan.

My brothers and sisters, there have been some basic changes in the country's situation over the past week. At present, our priorities are as follows: (?Obedience), peace, justice, election, and accountability. The steps taken by us so far might serve as an example to the fact that we have no plans for vengeance. We have not taken any step that may be termed vindictive. You might also have felt that the state of confrontation ended within a few days, and it was replaced by an atmosphere of cooperation between various departments in the country. You are quite aware of the rift created between the federation and the provinces by those who pledged to grant provincial autonomy. We do not consider the provincial authority and the integrity of Pakistan as separate entities. We have made the immediate decision to convene a meeting of the CCI, that is, Council of Common Interests, and NFC, that is, National Front Commission, soon.

As far as administrative affairs are concerned, we believe in clean administration. I have established an office within the prime minister's secretariat to guard against irregularities and corruption. You should immediately inform the office of any incident of irregularity or

corruption so that the evil of corruption will be uprooted by conducting early investigations, ensuring that the criminals are punished.

Our attention is focused on one more aspect. The prices of essential commodities have skyrocketted. Therefore, efforts are underway to take comprehensive steps to check the ever-rising price spiral.

Respected ladies and gentleman, Pakistan is the trust of our great leader Jinnah. Sindh, Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, and Balochistan are still ready to take care of the trust today as they were 44 years ago. The trust can be cared for only with honesty, the strength of faith in God, justice and fair play, and with brotherliness and love. On this auspicious day, let us make a pledge, taking our green flag as a witness, to imbue the country with the virtues of justice and fair play, where love and brotherliness flourish, and where people find the tranquillity of night and peace of mind, where children's eyes are filled with hopes of the future and they remain smiling. Such a Pakistan will conform to the dreams of our great leader, and, God willing, we will together make such a Pakistan. May God do so. Long live Pakistan.

Laws Changed To Conform With Islamic Tenets

BK1408113190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The President, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, on Monday [13 August] has promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to conform with the injunctions of Islam.

The following is the text of Ordinance.

An Ordinance further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860), and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), to bring certain provisions thereof in conformity with the Injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunna;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (I) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:

1. Short title and commencement: (1) This ordinance may be called the Criminal Law (Amendment) ordinance, 1990. (2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 54, Act XLV of 1860: In the Pakistan Penal code (Act XLV of 1860), in sections 3 referred to as the said Code, in section 54, for the full stop at the end a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be added, namely:

"Provided that, in a case in which sentence of death shall have been passed against an offender convicted for an offence of murder, such sentence shall not be commuted without the consent of the heirs of the victim."

3. Amendment of section 55, Act XLV of 1860: In the said Code; in section 55, for the full stop at the end a colon shall be substitued and thereafter the following proviso shall be added, namely:

"Provided that in a case in which sentence of imprisonment for life shall have been passed against an offender convicted for an offence punishable under sections 302, 303, 304, 305, 307, 326 or 329, such sentence shall not be commuted without the consent of the victim or, as the case may be, of his heirs."

4. Amendment of section 345, Act V of 1898: In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), hereinafter referred to as the said Code, in section 345, in sub-section (2), in the table:

(a) before the entries relating to the offence punishable under section 324 of the Pakistan Penal code, the following new entries shall be inserted, namely:

"Murder—302, 303 By the heirs of the victim.

Death by negligence—304A By the heirs of the victim.

Abetment of suicide—305, 306 By the heirs of the victim.

Attempt to murder—307 The person against whom the offence was committed.

Attempt to commit culpable homicide—308 The person against whom the offence was committed"; and

(b) after the entries relating to the offence punishable under section 325 of the Pakistan Penal Code, the following new entries shall be inserted, namely:

"Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons. 326 The person to whom hurt is caused.

Voluntarily causing hurt to extort property, etc. 327 Ditto

Causing hurt by means of poison, etc. 328 Ditto

Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort property, etc. 329 Ditto

Voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession, etc. 330, 331 Ditto

Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from performing his duties, 332, 333 Ditto."

5. Insertion of new section 402C, Act V of 1898: In the said Code, in Chapter XXIX, after section, 402B, the following new section shall be added, namely:

"402C. Remission or commutation of certain sentences not to be without consent: Notwithstanding anything contained in section 401, section 402, or section 402A, the Provincial Government or the President shall not, without the consent of the victim or, as the case may be, of his heirs, suspend, remit or commute any sentence passed under any of the sections of the Pakistan Penal Code hereinafter specified, that is to say, 302, 303, 304, 304-A, 305, 306, 307, 308, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 337 and 338."

6. Amendment of second schedule, Act V of 1898: In the said Code, in the second schedule, in column 6:

(a) for the entry relating to section 302, the entry "Compoundable by the heirs of the victim when permission is given by the Court before which a prosecution is pending" shall be substituted;

(b) for the entry relating to section 307 the entry "Compoundable by the victim when permission is given by the Court before which a prosecution is pending" shall be substituted;

(c) for the entry relating to section 309 the entry "Not compoundable" shall be substituted;

(d) for the entry relating to section 326 the entry "Compoundable by the victim when permission is given by the Court before which a prosecution is pending" shall be substituted;

(e) for the entry relating to section 329 the entry "Compoundable by the victim when permission is given by the Court before which a prosecution is pending" shall be substituted; and

(f) for the entry relating to section 336 the entry "Compoundable by the victim when permission is given by the Court before which prosecution is pending" shall be substituted.

Signed (Ghulam Ishaq Khan) President.

Foreign Secretary on Gulf Situation, India Talks

BK1008135990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Aug 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 9—Pakistan is drawing contingency plans to evacuate 90,000 Pakistanis from Kuwait.

Disclosing this to THE MUSLIM Tanvir Ahmad Khan, Foreign Secretary, said we are extremely worried about their security and are actively working on plans to ensure their safety and security if things deteriorate further.

Referring to Pakistan's reaction to the latest situation in the Gulf, the Foreign Secretary said that Iraq should not expect Pakistan to be an exception to the worldwide reaction to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "It is extremely difficult for us to accept the Iraqi position as Pakistan has for years resisted Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan," he said. Pakistan did not accept the Russian contention that they moved into Afghanistan at the invitation of the so-called Kabul regime. Pakistan is vehemently against any outside interference and intervention in the affairs of a sovereign country, he added.

About Pakistan playing any role in the situation, he said Pakistan tried to bring the issue back to a manageable regional framework by emphasising the need for Arab solution. But at the moment, he said, he is afraid the stakes are very high and it would not be easy for Pakistan to play a role unless the potential belligerents or the parties seek a political solution.

The Foreign Secretary ruled out the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with Iraq if things keep worsening. He said we have a lot of other linkages and these are very valuable. Pakistan has never broken relations with any Arab Muslim country and severing diplomatic ties with Iraq could set a very bad precedent which will serve no purpose. He was of the view that basic friendship should be maintained through keeping lines of communications open.

Asked to comment on the implications of the current situation in the Gulf on regional as well as global level, Mr. Tanvir observed that this could lead to a very serious oil crisis for the Third World countries including Pakistan. He said already the oil market is extremely nervous and prices have shot up. Crude oil prices have shot up very fast and oil products are becoming more and more difficult to get. There has been rush on available oil by the countries which have the purchasing power. These countries are stocking as much oil as possible.

Japan, he said, normally maintains the stocks for 142 days but there are reports that Japanese have bought huge quantities of oil from the Far East in an effort to stretch their storage capacity so that it lasts longer. There are similar reports from elsewhere and this could hit the Third World countries which have very limited liquidity and very low purchasing power and Pakistan is one of them.

Besides this, he said, the situation would have very serious implications for regional security and there would also be global implications. It had already led to the closure of the two Iraqi pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

He said the situation was very grim as multi-national troops and warships are in and around Gulf. The imminent naval blockade of Iraq could lead to a major conflict jeopardising the security of the whole region, he apprehended. This would also weaken the position that all of us have held over the years that there should be no outside interference in the region.

He regretted that Iraq has made it possible for outside countries to intervene in the region. He was of the view that after Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the issue was no longer simply an intra-Arab dispute because Iraqi action has touched upon the fundamental norms of international law and conduct. By attacking Kuwait, he said, Iraq has in fact put the security of the entire region at stake. Indo-Pak Talks: Turning to his journey to new Delhi, Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan expressed optimism and said though the progress of the first round was minimal

it served a very useful purpose i.e. the two sides straightened their points of view probably with greater frankness.

He said "my expectations while going to New Delhi are that India would have taken into account what we said to them frankly, candidly and in total sincerity and they have moved forward from their rigidly held position. So if that is the case, we can be very optimistic about the second round; let us wait and wee," he said.

Referring to the recently held ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers Conference in Cairo, he said, despite India's all diplomatic efforts, the ICO came out clearly in Pakistan's support. They endorsed the views held by Pakistan and this proved that India was chasing the shadows.

Saudi King's Envoy Visits Yaqub Khan

BK1408053690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The special emissary of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tunian, called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad yesterday to discuss ways to find a peaceful solution to the latest and most serious situation in the gulf.

Cabinet Reviews Pakistani Response to Saudis

BK1408160990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] A special meeting of the federal cabinet in Islamabad today reviewed the Gulf situation and Pakistan's response to the appeal by the custodian of the two holy shrines for Pakistan's participation in the Islamic contingent deployed to protect the two holy mosques. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan presented an analysis of the Gulf situation. The cabinet decided that Pakistan will provide appropriate help for the protection of the two holy mosques and other sacred places of Islam while meeting its own defense requirements under the present tense situation in South Asia. It was also decided to maintain close contacts with Saudi authorities to facilitate fulfilling the purely defensive responsibilities entrusted to defense forces of Egypt, Syria, Morocco and other Islamic countries in Saudi Arabia. The cabinet reviewed the problems being faced by Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq and issued appropriate directives to various departments to ensure the welfare and safety of Pakistanis and to make arrangements for their safe return to their homes in Pakistan.

The cabinet also reviewed the report presented to it on the foreign secretary's recent talks with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi.

Editorial Terms India Talks 'Exercise in Futility'

BK1308133390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Mere Table-talk"]

[Text] The Second round of Pakistan-India talks on Kashmir ended on an inconclusive note at New Delhi on Thursday last [9 August]. This is borne out by the fact that there was no joint statement at the end of the two-day talks aimed at easing border tensions, primarily those linked to Kashmir. The only faintly heartening thing from the Pakistani point of view was that the talks were 'cordial,' which is small consolation. On the other hand, Indian intransigence continued, with New Delhi ruling out redeployment of its troops to peacetime border areas. In fact, the Indian Foreign Secretary said Pakistan was told such a move could be considered only after this country stopped its alleged interference in occupied Kashmir and Indian Punjab. Pakistan's position has all along been that an agreement on troop deployment was the cornerstone of the present exercise to build mutual confidence. It was also strongly argued that there had been a "steep increase in violence in the Kashmir Valley after the recent decision of the Indian government to add to the highly arbitrary powers of the Indian security forces." It was additionally made clear that the government and people of Pakistan could not be indifferent to the sufferings of the Kashmiris. The Indian Foreign Secretary, however, totally ignored this aspect of the talks in his statement.

The first round of talks between the two sides at Islamabad had been a disaster, with Indian security forces clamping down hard on Kashmiris protesting against them, with the result that scores of them were killed. The second round has been no less disappointing. It could best be described as a continuation of an exercise in futility. Both sides have apparently been going through with the talks because the USA would have it so. So far, the outcome has been a number of statements from either side, whether strongly or diplomatically worded. The inescapable conclusion is that these statements have been issued, not because they are an indicator towards any sort of rapprochement, but because they signify that some form of talks have been held. What a flagrant waste of time on useless parleys vis-a-vis a burning issue. That the talks on Kashmir have been relegated to the background because of the situation in the Middle East, is regrettable, but does not by any means detract from the importance of the issue, both to the Kashmiris, and Pakistan. There are reports of an agreement to hold a third round of talks in the last week of September. Considering the almost total lack of consensus during the first two rounds, very little or no hope is held out about the third round being any more fruitful. The Organisation of Islamic Conference, in its recent Foreign Ministers' moot in Cairo, adopted a unanimous resolution clearly rejecting the Indian stand that bilateral Indo-Pak talks should not include reference to Kashmir, by saying

that the "dialogue should address the core of the problems and remove the basic causes of tension between India and Pakistan." In view of this resolution, it is high time the question of Kashmir was removed from the bilateral sphere, where it never did belong, and shifted to the United Nations forum, where it should rightly be resolved.

Former Minister Ahsan Secures Stay of Arrest

BK1408010790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1859 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Lahore, Pakistan, Aug 13 (AFP)—A high court Monday granted bail to the former interior minister of Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and ordered he not be arrested for a week, court sources said. The court granted Aitzaz Ahsan bail and directed all federal and provincial government agencies not to arrest him until August 20.

It summoned the federal deputy attorney general and the Punjab province attorney general to appear in court on the same date. Mr. Ahsan had submitted a petition saying he feared arrest as his house here was surrounded late Sunday by armed men he suspected were plain-clothed police. Under Pakistani law, a person fearing imminent arrest can seek a court order barring his detention pending disposal of a petition. [passage omitted]

PPP Leaders Deny Seeking Deal With Army

BK1408111690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Aug 90 p 1, 7

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is reported to have turned down a request from the caretaker government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi for the postponement of the October elections and has firmly declared that the polls would not be put off.

This was stated here by former federal ministers Farooq Ahmad Leghari, Ahmad Saeed Awan, Tariq Rahim and Rao Sikandar Iqbal.

Addressing a joint Press conference here on Monday [13 Agust] the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders announced in clear terms that notwithstanding its principled stand that the President's action of Aug 6 was illegal, unconstitutional and immoral, the party would take part in the elections and it had already invited applications from its members for party tickets for the national and provincial assemblies. These applications, they said, would be received from Aug 24 to Aug 30. The party parliamentary boards, they said, would start awarding party tickets from Sept 10.

The PPP, they said, would challenge the declaration made by the President in the Supreme Court as it considered the dissolution of the National Assembly as a direct violation of the Consitution. Expressing their full confidence in the judiciary they said the Supreme Court had already given its verdict on a similar petition filed by Haji Saifullah against the action taken by former President General Ziaul Haq and hoped that the courts would live up to their tradition.

The PPP leaders strongly repudiated reports published in some newspapers that a deal between the PPP and the army was being worked out for a compromise. They said that their party would never enter into any such deal and it had never been Bhutto's policy to negotiate any such behind-the-scene bargain. When asked to comment on reports that some of their former colleagues would become approvers in case of corruption against their party leaders, the former Ministers termed it as unimaginable and said if any one of them dared to do so, he would be condemned by the entire party and the people.

Challenging the right of the caretaker government to conduct any type of accountability, they said if accountability was to be done it should cover all those who had been in power since 1977.

Maintaining that the party would carry on its legal and election fight with equal zeal, they said if the President was honest in his commitment for holding impartial elections he should first de-bar those included in the caretaker government from contesting polls. "How could you expect impartial elections from those in power who had always been active against the PPP government," they asked.

They accused the caretaker government of muzzling the national Press and using the electronic media for personal propaganda. The ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], they alleged, has become active to terrorise newsmen and apprehended five journalists in the capital on flimsy charges. The PPP supporters arrested in Karachi have been detained under preventive laws while the PPP government in its two years rule had never used such abnormal laws against any one.

They said, the PPP was releasing a thirty-page rejoinder in reply to the presidential address of Aug 6 in which the President had levelled baseless charges of corruption against its government. The former ministers defended the People's Programme and said that the caretaker government had no right to annual a measure which was duly approved in the national budget.

They also objected to the appointment of Chaudhry Shaukat as Secretary of the Election Commission. They appealed to the President to look into the matter and restore the previous Secretary who was an honest civil servant.

Replying to another question the PPP leaders denied reports of any differences between Begum [Nusrat] Bhutto and the former Prime Minister. They said that Begum Bhutto who is the chairperson of the party remained available throughout the meeting of the central committee. She however, was engaged in meeting the delegations who arrived from all over the country to meet the party leader.

Begum Bhutto they said had an appointment with her doctors in London on August, 25. She was already in London when she was requested to come back to Islamabad in view of the COP [Combined Opposition Parties] no-confidence move.

They said there was no truth in reports that she had decided to leave politics and had advised the former Prime Minister to do the same.

Eight-Party Alliance Leaders Meet on Election

BK1008135590 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Aug 90 pp 1, 9

[From Ashraf Mumtaz]

[Text] Lahore, Aug 9—The IJI leader [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] Ship decided here on Thursday to keep the eight-party alliance intact and contest the Oct 24 elections from a single platform in order to face its political foe, PPP [Pakistan People's Party], more effectively in the electoral bout. They also decided to included other like-minded parties in the alliance, IJI sources told Dawn after a 5-hour meeting at the residence of the alliance president Mr Nawaz Sharif.

Caretaker Prime Minister, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who is also President of a component of the IJI, the National People's Party, specially flew in here from the Federal Capital to participate in the meeting. He was late by about two hours—mainly because of weather conditions in Islamabad—and before advancing the proceedings he was briefed about the discussions held in his absence.

Jamiat Ulewma-i-Pakistan (Niazi group) is likely to announce its participation in the IJI in the near future. The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] the Awami National Party, and some other parties which did not have representation in the IJI would be contacted for the sake of greater unity. The parties which did not like to formally join the alliance would be offered "cooperation" without being included in the alliance, the sources said.

The parties have been directed to prepare lists of their candidates for the next national and provincial assemblies elections. However, share of each party in the allocation of tickets would be decided at the next meeting, scheduled to be held at Islamabad on August 18. The IJI components have been advised to keep the "electability" of a person in mind before including him in the list of candidates.

The IJI leaders welcomed the decision of initiating the process of accountability but emphasised that it should be "all-embracing" and completed without affecting the election schedule. They were of the view that in case the election schedule was upset for one reason or the other, a number of constitutional complications would emerge which would not be in the national interest in the prevailing situation.

The caretaker Prime Minister, according to the sources, assured the IJI leaders that he was starting the process of accountability with immediate effect and that it would be positively completed before elections. According to the sources, the caretaker Prime Minister did not clarify the modalities of the accountability.

Dissolution of the assemblies and the situation created thereafter also came under discussion. Although the IJI as an alliance had never in the past demanded dissolution of the legislatures, they did not oppose the step. Many of the leaders were of the opinion that it was the logical result of the "activities" of the ruling party.

The leades who participated in the meeting included: Nawaz Sharif, Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Ghulam Haider Wyne (caretaker Chief Minister), Chaudhy Shujaat Hussain (Industries Minister), Senator Asif Fasihuddin Verdag and Chaudhy Abdul Ghafoor (Pakistan Muslim League), Senator Qazi Husain Ahmed, Professor Ghaffor Ahmed and Liaquat Baloch (Jamaat-i-Islami), Senator Maulana Samiul Haq and Maulana Ajmal Khan (Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam), Agha Murtaza Poya and Maulana Ali Ghazanfar Kararvi (Hizbe Jehad). Fakhr Imam (independent group), Pir Fazle Haq (Jamiat Mashaikh Pakistan), and Mian Fazla Haq (Jamaat Ahle Hadith).

Paper Considers Kashmir Assembly Dissolution

BK1108133590 Lahore THE NATION in English 11 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Leave Azad Kashmir Out"]

[Text] The prime minister of the PPP-led Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], Mr. Mumtaz Rathod has claimed that he is under pressure to dissolve the recently elected Assembly of the State. According to Mr. Rathod, orders to this effect have been conveyed to him by persons on behalf of the President and caretaker PM [Prime Minister] of Pakistan, and funds meant for the People's Programme in AJK have been frozen. If the allegations have substance, the matter is one for serious concern. The Government of AJK has entered its second month of holding power in the State; what could be the apparent pretext for the dissolution of its Legislative Assembly? Corruption cannot be given as a credible justification, for not only has the AJK Government not had the time to indulge in a scale of corruption which would warrant such a 'remedy', it has also just begun a process of accountability of its predecessors' actions.

Certain legal obstacles also stand in the way of such action. Unlike the post-Eighth Amendment Constitution of Pakistan, the AJK Constitution provides that the Assembly can only be dissolved by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Both the President and caretaker PM of Pakistan have gone to great lengths to stress the constitutionality of recent events at home. Any attempt to initiate or encourage supra-constitutional action in AJK, will create serious misgivings about their intentions. Most importantly moreover is the question of

the Kashmir cause which should be the foremost consideration in the minds of the powers that be in Islamabad. And any move which amounts to treating the AJK Government as an appendage of Islamabad, does not benefit a cause which is close to the hearts of all Pakistanis. Whatever course events at home take in the following months, the Kashmiris at least should be left out of it.

Daily Comments on U.S.-Soviet Afghanistan Talks

BK1208124190 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Aug 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Afghanistan's Turn"]

[Text] After Cambodia, it is Afghanistan's turn. Having confronted each other for more than a decade on these two crisis spots in Asia both the superpowers are now rapidly moving towards a consensus, leaving their local allies to fend for themselves. But unlike Europe and the arms-cut negotiations, in which Moscow did most of the giving, it is Washington which has now to bend. Take the case of Afghanistan. The Foreign Office in Islamabad and the US special envoy to the Afghan Mujahidin have confirmed that Mr. James Baker and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze struck a deal on Afghnistan in their Siberian meeting early this month. Although no official announcement has been made regarding the terms of the agreement, it is generally being said that President Najibullah's ouster is not on the cards any more—at least not immediately. As the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman indicated, agreement has been reached between the US and the USSR on the broad principle of elections in Afghanistan. Differences, however, persist on the issue of the powers Najibullah is to enjoy during the transition period. Reports from Irkutsk had spoken of Mr. Baker agreeing to UN-supervised elections in Afghanistan while Najibullah remains nominally in power. Given the direction in which East-West relations are developing, the remaining disagreements on Afghanistan can be expected to be sorted out in the coming weeks. If and when that happens, the world will witness one of the biggest turnarounds in international politics, with the two superpower adversaries of yesteryears joining hands to impose a settlement of their own conception on the Afghans.

Before they are faced with this fait accompli, the Afghans would do well to rethink their strategy and options. At present, there are four contenders for power in this strife-torn country. The PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] regime in Kabul, the field commanders in Afghanistan, the Iran-based guerrillas and the Mujahidin operating from Peshawar are all parties to the conflict, which is no longer as intense as to cause much concern among Afghanistan's neighbours. But, at the same time, the no-war no-peace situation in the country remains a hindrance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of a society torn by civil war for a decade. Absence of an agreement has also discouraged the refugees from returning home. Hence, at the moment it is the Afghans themselves who should be playing a major role in the restoration of peace in their country by working out a political arrangement based on national consensus. Unfortunately, the Afghans have failed to grasp the importance of this. On the one hand, the polarisation between the Najibullah regime and the resistance movement is as acute as ever. On the other, the non-PDPA elements are divided badly among themselves, making the task of political conciliation all the more difficult. It would be unfortunate if the Mujahidin were to lose the political struggle for peace and normalisation after having achieved a spectacular success in forcing the Soviets to pull out their troops from Afghanistan. With the curtain having been drawn on the cold war, and an agreement on negative symmetry requiring the suspension of the flow of arms into Afghanistan in the offing, it is plain that a military conflict of high intensity will be difficult to sustain in Afghanistan. Hence the urgency of a political settlement.

It would be unrealistic, however, to expect the Mujahidin to throw away their gains of the past decade by accepting Najibullah at the helm of the government in Kabul which would hold the polls. The need for a fair, free and impartial electoral process cannot be overemphasised. Obviously, the authority that organises the polls should be comprised of a disinterested and non-partisan group such as one set up by the UN which alone can ensure that no party enjoys an undue advantage by virtue of its hold on the administrative machinery. This condition would not be fulfilled if the Najibullah government's status in Kabul remains unchanged. But the resistance movement can push its point of view across only if it stops bickering and starts charting out the course of action for a political settlment. Pakistan can play a positive role in this if it throws its weight behind a political settlement based on self-determination of the Afghans rather than encourage the delusion of a military solution which can only mean the prolongation of a destructive civil war.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lankans in Kuwait Reported Safe

BK1408132990 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The government is taking action to ensure the security of Sri Lankans serving in Middle East countries. The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that all newspapers will carry an announcement tomorrow as to how the necessary information could be obtained.

The Foreign Ministry says that all Sri Lankans in Kuwait are quite safe and had not been subjected to any hardships. The ministry further adds that there is no truth whatsoever in the rumors to the effect that due to the present situation in Kuwait, the Sri Lankans there had been subjected to harassment.

Government Responds to Muslim, LTTE Violence

Plans All-Out Offensive on LTTE

BK1108091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government plans to evacuate civilians from the northern Jaffna peninsula to clear the way for an all-out assault on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This was disclosed by the Sri Lankan minister for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, in Parliament yesterday. The Parliament met after the opposition members asked for a debate to discuss the upsurge in separatist violence. Mr. Wijeratne said the civilians will be taken to a refugee camp in Vavuniya, 140 km south of Jaffna town and outside the disputed area. He did not say when the evacuation would start or how many people would be evacuated.

Wijeratne Says 'Time Running Out'

BK1108104490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0631 GMT 11 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of state for defence, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, told parliament yesterday that time was running out for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The alternative to giving up their foolhardy enterprise was to be pushed out into the salt water of the Palk Strait and the Indian Ocean or to swim across to their friends in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Wijeratne was winding up the debate on the situation in the north and the east. He said he was thinking seriously of advising the president about shifting all the innocent Tamil people from Jaffna to Vavuniya and then smashing up the LTTE brigands and criminals. There was a proposal to make a refugee camp in Mannar Island. The LTTE has refused to co-operate with this suggestion. The alternative for us now was to take over the island by force.

Mr. Wijeratne said: "We have proven to the world that we are a responsible government. We are elected to protect the interests of all people in this country. From the very start the president had told the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] and the LTTE that we should sit and talk out our problems. There was no need for fighting. That is what a leader should do. The JVP did not pay any heed and went on fighting and they had to be annihilated. There was no alternative. The LTTE who were about to be squeezed by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and who wanted some kind of oxygen at the time grabbed the offer and for 15 months fooled around with us.

We were genuine all the time. We spoke to them in the firm belief that they could be brought round to the democratic path. We accorded them due respect and treated them well. Now we have to travel on a very hard road. Many innocent people are losing their lives. Some say it is karma [fate]. It is a difficult problem we have to tackle now. Human sentiments have been kindled. The LTTE is feeding on the ethnic differences and trying to show themselves as the sole saviours of the Tamil people. I have spoken to the innocent Tamil people in the refugee camps in the east. I have told them this is what their leaders in the LTTE have done. The LTTE has decided, if they cannot get Eelam [independent Tamil state], then they will kill the Tamil people and die themselves. They have already liquidated the Tamil leaders like Mr. Amirthalingam and leaders of the other Tamil political parties. They are also killing the Tamil people. The march to the north will go on. To escape the wrath of the forces, the LTTE criminals will have to swim across or take the cyanide pill. They are killing the innocent Tamil people in the north and the east. We shall recruit Sinhala and Muslim youth to the Army and they will work with the forces. The LTTE are a band of criminals, the scum of Jaffna who have got together and procured some arms. Just as we dealt with the JVP, the scum of the south, we shall deal with this scum of the north. We got the leadership of the JVP, and I have given the assurance that we will get the leadership of the LTTE."

Killing of 33 Militants Reported

BK1108104890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 33 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and a soldier were killed in separate encounters during the past 24 hours in the continuing conflict in the northeastern part of the island. Military officials said in Colombo that at least 15 militants were killed in a raid on their hideout at Sawarikulam area near Tirukkovil in the Eastern Amparai last night. In another incident, militants fleeing after an army attack near Palampoddaru stepped on their own mine suffering heavy casualty.

While the besieged Jaffna fort and several army and naval detachments at Kankesanthurai, Palali, Elephant Pass, Mullaitivu in the north and Kalkudah in Polonnaruwa District of north central province came under sporadic mortar and rocket attacks from the militants, the army killed two LTTE militants at Kankesanthurai.

21 LTTE Killed; Arms, Ammo Seized

BK1108104690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0842 GMT 11 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—Four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed and a large haul of weapons including 20,000 rounds of ammunition seized by security forces in separate incidents yesterday. Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that following a raid on an LTTE camp in the Thirukovil area in the Eastern Province, yesterday, the Special Task Force (STF) recovered

20,000 rounds of ammunition, 200 hand grenades, mortars, irritant gas canisters and gas cylinders. The sources said that the terrorists had opened fire at the STF personnel who conducted the raid but fled when the forces returned fire. Military sources further said that security forces shot dead 2 LTTE terrorists in Kankesanturai in the Northern Province in the east's Trincomalee.

The sources quoting a delayed report said 17 LTTE terrorists were killed by commandos in another raid on an LTTE camp at Thangavelayuthapuram also in the Eastern Province Tuesday and recovered 3-lorry loads of bombs, mines and ammunition.

Communique Details Operations

BK1108143090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists continue to cause panic among the Muslim community during the 24 hours ending at 1200 noon yesterday. A communique issued by the information department says a group of LTTE terrorists abducted 18 Muslims from the Muslim villages of Siyamabalagaskanda close to the Yakawewa in Medawachchiya. Alert home guards fired on these LTTE terrorists. This alerted the security forces detachment and the terrorists fled leaving behind the 18 Muslims as well as the tractor and the trailer, a T-81 rifle, grenades, swords, and other sharp implements.

In the Tamil village of Samalankulam in the district of Vavuniya, a group of unknown persons attacked and killed three villages and burnt six houses.

In Periyapullimawe in the Batticaloa District, the security forces engaged in clearing operations activated a booby trap in an abandoned house, which injured six soldiers. Residents in the northern and eastern provinces are once again warned to be on the alert to the possibility of LTTE terrorists setting up booby traps and explosive devices in their homes, especially if their homes have been closed. According to the communique, the Special Task Force engaged in the search operations in the Rotta Kulam area of the Amparai District recovered a large quantity of ammunition, uniforms, grenades, and antipersonnel mines.

LTTE Says Government Bombs Jaffna

BK1108132090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 11 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas accused the Sri Lankan Air Force and Navy of launching a "massive assault" on the northern Jaffna Peninsula, killing and wounding several people during the last three days.

"The Sri Lankan Air Force planes indiscriminately bombed the whole of the heavily populated Jaffna Peninsula," said a statement released here Saturday by the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

It said several people had been killed and wounded in the aerial bombing and simultaneous shelling of coastal villages by naval gunboats positioned off the coast of Jaffna.

"Death and destruction occurred in such a wide area and within such a short time it is difficult to assess casualty figures at this stage," the statement said. "There is no place in the peninsula that escaped the aerial bombing," the statement added.

Military officials here confirmed that there had been "some operations" in Jaffna, but said bombing had been limited to "selected targets." They said an LTTE ammunition dump had been blown up in bombing Thursday, but could not give its location.

The LTTE's statement came hours after a senior government minister unveiled plans to evacuate the civilian population of the Jaffna Peninsula to enable the security forces to "annihilate" the rebels in their main stronghold.

Jaffna's estimated 800,000 population would be advised to move to a refugee camp to be opened in Vavuniya, 142 kilometres (225 miles) south of the peninsula, Plantation Industries Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament Friday. [passage omitted]

He said once the civilians were evacuated from Jaffna the LTTE would have to decide whether to face the bullets of the security forces or swim across the narrow Palk Strait to their "bosom friend in Tamil Nadu."

He was apparently referring to M. Karunanidhi, chief minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, whom Colombo has accused of supporting the Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr. Wijeratne dismissed as "totally incorrect" reports that the army's advance had slowed due to lack of ammunition and said there were sufficient men and material to face the situation in the northeast.

The government was also in the process of ordering more stocks of ammunition from abroad and they would be arriving in the country in the next few months, said Mr. Wijeratne, who visited some Middle Eastern countries last week, reportedly to procure arms.

Meanwhile, military officials here said Saturday one soldier and 14 rebels were killed in separate clashes in the northeast during the last 24 hours. They said elite police commandos recovered a large quantity of ammunition and bombs in a raid on an LTTE camp at

Savarikulam, while security forces repulsed mortar and small-arms attacks by the rebels on a number of camps and detachments.

A leader of a Tamil group alleged that 15 Tamils were killed and 12 abducted by Moslem homeguards in two seperate incidents in the eastern Amparai District Friday and Saturday. At least six Tamil houses were burned by the attackers, said the leader.

LTTE Reportedly Massacres 100 Muslims

BK1208092790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0732 GMT 12 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—At least 100 Muslims including women and children were slaughtered by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the early hours Sunday [12 August] morning in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province area of Eravur.

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE terrorists had, in the early hours of this morning stormed three villages in the predominantly Muslim Eravur area and massacred the innocent civilians who were asleep in their huts.

The sources said, the LTTE terrorists armed with grenades and sophisticated weapons had first thrown grenades into the huts and later pulled out men, women and children and shot them dead.

It was the second massacre in ten days of innocent Muslims in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. On 3 August, one hundred and fifty Muslims who were praying in two mosques in Kattankudi were killed while praying. Two days later fifty Muslims who were returning from their paddy fields were shot and killed.

The sources also said that Saturday evening at Akkaraipattu also in the Eastern Province three Muslims were killed, bringing the total to two hundred and ninety three Muslims killed within ten days.

Meanwhile, several Muslim leaders led by the Minister of Muslim Religious Affairs Mohamed Azwer left this morning to the grief stricken areas of Eravur.

LTTE Denies Alleged Massacre

BK1208152590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 12 (AFP)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Sunday denied the massacre of more than 100 Muslims in eastern Sri Lanka and charged Colombo with playing a "dangerous game."

"We deny the massacre of Muslims in Eravur in Batticaloa. The Sri Lankan Army is masterminding these massacres and expecting clashes between Tamils and Muslims using the armed groups," the LTTE said in a statement issued in Paris and released here.

"The dangerous game played by the Sri Lankan Government by killing the innocent Muslim population will not last long," the LTTE said.

"Very soon the truth will come out and the world will come to know the real culprits behind these horrific massacres," it added.

Military officials said at least 116 people died in Saturday night's bloodbath in which men, women and children were shot and hacked to death by some 40 armed men.

Colombo has accused the LTTE of carrying out the attack.

The LTTE had denied an August 3 massacre of more than 100 Muslims in neighbouring Kathankudy, calling it "a diabolic plan" of the Colombo government.

Muslims and tamils, both two minority groups, live in large numbers in the multi-ethnic Eastern Province.

The LTTE is waging its battle for an independent homeland in the island's sprawling northeast where the Tamils form a majority.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said last week the Tigers were attempting to provoke a backlash by the Muslims against the minority Tamils by carrying out the massacres.

But the LTTE said "We pose the question why we should attack Muslims at a time we need their fullest cooperation" to fight the oppression against both Muslims and Tamils in the northeast by the Sri Lankan Government.

Nearly 2,850 people are reported to have died in violence between government troops and guerrillas, which erupted June 11.

Thousands of others have fled to southern Indian amid the escalating fighting.

Tamil Parties Propose Solution

BK1208093390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Text] Reports received from Sri Lanka this morning speak of heavy casualties in the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks on Muslim-dominated villages in the eastern part of the country. According to military officials, the rebels stormed several villages in Batticaloa District, killing over 100 people. Forty others were injured. The Sri Lankan Muslim Congress leader, Mr. M.H.M. Ashraf, has accused the Premadasa government of inefficiency in protecting Muslims even after the Kattankudi massacre recently. He alleged that the LTTE killings are with the connivance of the government itself.

Meanwhile, in a bid to resolve the current conflict, six Tamil parties of Sri Lanka have worked out a package proposal. The proposal to be submitted to President Premadasa envisages the establishment of a regional

council in the northeast as a permanently merged province with the declaration of an autonomous region in the predominantly Muslim areas within the province. It also calls for devolution of enough power for the council. No referendum is necessary as the merger would be made permanent. The parties included the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front], and EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party]. Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppaswamy, reports that the proposal seems to be a bid to isolate the LTTE and assure the Tamils that their rights are being protected. The parties have strongly opposed the government plan to evacuate thousands of civilians from northern Sri Lanka to make way for an all-out assault on the LTTE.

Over 220 Killed in East

BK1308121990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1017 GMT 13 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Over 220 persons have been killed in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province since Saturday [11 August].

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that sixteen Sinhalese, 15 of them fishermen and a soldier who was on leave, were killed when they were ambushed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists while they were traveling in a truck on the Padaviya-Pulmoodai Road, at 0530 hours (local time) this morning.

The sources said that terrorists yesterday attacked Muslim farmers who were working in a paddy field at Weeracholai in the Sammanturai police [station] area and killed 4 farmers and injured 10. In retaliation, some Muslims entered the Hindu kovil [Tamil temple] at Weeramunai in the same area and attacked the Tamil refugees in the kovil. In the attack 21 Tamils were killed and 30 others were injured.

Terrorists exploded a claymore mine and attacked a Special Task Force (STF) route clearing party with small arms, at the 212th mile post on the Pothuvil-Thirukovil Road. The security forces returned fire forcing the terrorists to retreat. In the confrontation 6 security forces personnel were killed. Three others who were injured were admitted to the Amparai Hospital.

Security forces also said that the number of Muslims killed Saturday in Eravur was 173: 115 men, 27 women and 31 children. Twenty others were injured in this incident.

The government has established a police post at Eravur with a security forces detachment to protect the civilians and a curfew is now on in the Eravur area.

In the Northern Province of Jaffna terrorists directed sporadic mortar and small arms fire at the Kankesanturai and Karainagar naval detachments. Jaffna Fort security forces [and] Mullaittivu and Vavuniya detachments also came under fire by the LTTE terrorists. No casualties were reported.

During the cross fire in Vavuniya one civilian was killed and one was injured, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the LTTE suffered heavy casualties in fierce battles with Sri Lankan forces in Talaimannar yesterday.

Home Guards To Protect Villages

BK1408094190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has decided to recruit an additional 35,000 home guards immediately to provide a comprehensive security cover to Muslim and Sinhala villagers in the northeast. This is to thwart the likely LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks on Muslim villagers. Our correspondent Karupaswamy quoting official sources reports that there is still no decision on recruiting Tamils in the home guards.

Meanwhile, major Tamil parties are meeting President Premadasa this evening to discuss the civilian and Tamil killings in the Eastern Province. The main agenda is a package proposal on the establishment of a regional council in place of provincial council.

100 Tamils Killed 13 Aug

BK1508053690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0320 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 100 Tamil people were killed on Monday [13 August] night at Chenkaladi near Eravur by suspected Muslims in the continuing ethnic violence.

Our Colombo correspondent reports that 60 bodies have been located so far. Quoting Tamil sources, our correspondent says the killings seem to be a retaliatory action of the Eravur massacre earlier. BT